

Thank you so much for the opportunity to speak with you today on behalf of Children and Families. My name is Kelli Becker and I am an Adoption Support Worker for the Sunburst Community Service Foundation. Sunburst provides a variety of services to families in crisis including family preservation services to prevent foster care placement, parent education, and support to families during the reunification process. In my experience working with at-risk families on the Flathead Reservation, the benefits of the Child Welfare System have become abundantly clear. The services available to parents and children due to your support of The Child and Family Services Division help to create stronger, healthier families. This in turn creates stronger, healthier communities and benefits the most vulnerable members of our community, children. Unfortunately, the need for these services greatly outweighs the resources available and many families have to be placed on waiting lists to receive needed support. When making decisions regarding the Child and Family Services budget, I urge you to support those working on the front lines to protect children and strengthen families. Thank you again for your time and consideration.