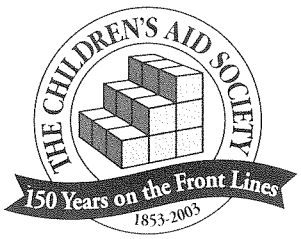

August 5, 2004

The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer
U.S. House of Representatives
1705 LHOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Hoyer:

The Children's Aid Society—New York City's oldest and largest youth-serving organization—sincerely appreciates your leadership in introducing the Full Service Community Schools Act, H.R. 4585. As you may recall from visiting one of our community schools, I.S. 218, in New York City two years ago, the strategy of bringing extra services into public schools makes good sense and has been demonstrated—by us and colleagues around the country—to work.

When implemented effectively, this strategy improves student achievement, increases parent involvement, and helps neighborhoods become safer. But doing this work is not easy, in large part because organizations like ours have to piece together the funding, year after year. Although our work has been enhanced by some existing legislation, such as the 21st Century Community Learning Centers, we are painfully aware that existing funding streams leave major gaps in the work we need to do—for example, greatly needed medical, dental, mental health and social services are not allowable services under the current 21st Century legislation. Your legislation would provide essential incentives and resources to strengthen ongoing work and expand full-service community schools across the country.

We look forward to working with you to make this legislation a reality. And please let us know when you would like to visit some of our 13 community schools in New York City. The students and parents at I.S. 218 still talk about your visit, and they would love to see you again (as would your colleagues at CAS). Thank you again for your efforts to support our work.

Sincerely,

Philip Coltoff
Chief Executive Officer

Executive Offices: 105 East 22nd Street, New York, NY 10010 • 212-949-4800 • www.childrensaidsociety.org

A copy of the latest annual report may be obtained from The Children's Aid Society, 105 East 22nd Street, New York, NY 10010 or from the Charities Bureau, Department of Law, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224