

New York State Citizen Review Panels

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Governor George Pataki
Executive Chamber
New York State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Pataki:

On behalf of the New York State Eastern Citizen Review Panel, I would like to offer our congratulations to you and your administration for receiving a bonus for reducing the number of out-of wedlock births and abortions in our state.

With this bonus, New York has a unique opportunity to expand and strengthen New York State families by providing additional support to home visiting programs such as Healthy Families. This program is a proven primary prevention and early intervention program. As citizen members of the Eastern Citizen Review Panel which examines the policies, procedures, and practices in child protective services in New York State, we are very aware that a number of New York families in communities throughout the state need additional support to keep children safe. Research has shown that home visiting programs are effective, cost-efficient and preventive in nature. Currently, many communities in New York State do not have a home visiting program and many families in need of this service go without.

We believe that New York State can achieve further reductions in numbers of families and children who need costly services, reduce the number of children entering the child protective system, and support healthy development of children throughout New York State through additional support of this valuable program.

Sincerely,

Stacy Alvord
Panel Chair