



## **Help end abuse of children**

**Dear Editor,**

A recent study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that one in 50 children younger than age one were victims of nonfatal child abuse or neglect in the United States. Even more disturbing was the finding that one-third, or about 30,000 of these cases, involved infants who were a week old or younger.

These are startling statistics that further highlight the need for preventive services and programs for families at risk of abuse or neglect.

Healthy Families Illinois and Parents Too Soon are programs that coach new parents to help foster their children's development and growth. These programs help prevent child abuse and neglect in highly at-risk families through community-based home-visiting programs. Unfortunately, these services do not reach all the families who want and need services.

That is why Kids Hope United, a human service organization dedicated to protecting children and strengthening families, encourages the passage in the Illinois State Legislature of House Bill 5570/Senate Bill 2235, which would appropriate \$10 million from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Human Services to expand these crucial programs.

Support for this bill would help curb these alarming statistics and secure the futures of these young, vulnerable children.

**Sincerely,**

**Mark McHugh  
Executive Director  
Kids Hope United**