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**Senate
Chamber**

State of Tennessee

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July 26, 2011

Commissioner James M. Henry
Andrew Jackson Building
500 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Commissioner Henry,

I am writing because we have been hearing from numerous constituents about the redirection of grant funding for The TEAM Centers in Chattanooga. As you know, this grant has been given to The TEAM Centers for decades. Because of that grant and other funding, parents detailed for me the success their families have seen in their children receiving services from The TEAM Centers.

Without consultation of the General Assembly, however, the Department has decided to use that grant money elsewhere. This decision has affected thousands of families in the Hamilton County area and was made without consultation or vetting by the legislature as a whole or the delegation in particular. The confusion that has occurred illustrates the peril of making this decision without a full hearing.

I hope you will reconsider the decision to deny this grant so we can minimize the disruption to these families in need. At the least, there needs to be outreach to help people transfer to adequate replacement services.

I am always happy to work with you on this important matter, and I appreciate your willingness to take my call and letter on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Andy