

Dear Councilmember: _____:

I am writing you today regarding an issue on your desk that is of great importance to our community: the continuing growth of the Children's Museum of History, Science & Technology at 311 Main Street in Utica, NY. The Children's Museum is a vital resource for the City of Utica, and the entire Mohawk Valley. The Museum provides our community with essential opportunities for learning through innovative exhibits and enriching educational experiences.

The Children's Museum is fully integrated into the fabric of our community; in its 46 years of operation it has delivered life changing moments for our residents and has provided a safe place for children to explore the world around them.

We are all aware of the financial difficulties the Museum has endured over the years – many of us share similar challenges in these uncertain economic times. But if there is one area where our city must continue to take pride and must continue to nurture and grow it is in supporting the cultural arts and institutions like the Children's Museum. It is our responsibility as stewards for our community to provide informal educational experiences for our citizens that promote life-long learning and enhance our quality of life.

Where else in the Mohawk Valley can our children and grandchildren engage in this kind of educational experience? Sending them and their families' valuable revenue and entertainment dollars to Syracuse or Albany simply isn't a viable economic solution and certainly isn't a wise choice of action for our growing city.

This community needs a strong, viable and full-service museum that will also serve as a symbol of civic pride. The Children's Museum can do that, it has done that. I hope you'll join me in supporting our museum, and do all that your office allows to ensure its continuity and future.

Sincerely,