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SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 15, 2010

ACYF Operations Center
c/o Master Key Consulting
ATTN: Mentoring Children of Prisoners Program Funding
4915 St. Elmo Avenue, Suite 101
Bethesda, MD 20814

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to support Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio in its efforts to secure funding through the Administration on Children, Youth and Families' Mentoring Children of Prisoners grant.

Since 2003, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio has provided mentoring relationships to more than 1,000 children of prisoners. The program is called Amachi, a West African word meaning "who knows but what God has brought us with this child." The Amachi program has been made possible by support from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and private and corporate foundations.

In addition, in 2006 Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio led the formation of the Amachi Ohio program, a collaboration of Big Brothers Big Sisters' agencies throughout the state. During the first three years of the statewide program, it created 1,721 mentoring relationships for children of prisoners.

It is my hope that Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio will be given the opportunity to continue operating and growing this vital program, which provides hundreds of Ohio's most vulnerable children with a caring, consistent adult presence in their lives.

Please give serious consideration to Big Brothers Big Sisters' application for funding. I ask that you keep my office informed of the status of this application.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

SB: lm