



## **Save home visits from budget cuts**

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As a business leader who cares about the end game in terms of the state's work force, I question the governor's across-the-board budget cuts ("Paterson argues for swift deficit action," Nov. 9) especially when they threaten programs like voluntary home visiting that are proven to give back to people and the economy.

My experience in private industry and work force development has shown that when you invest in people at an early age, you build a solid foundation that remains with them throughout their life. Research shows that voluntary home visiting programs save money and help children start school ready to learn.

The governor's cuts come as Congress is considering health care legislation that will base federal matching funds for home visiting on the state's level of investment in 2009-10. To cut state funding that will put at risk millions of federal dollars does not make sense.

Solving the budget crisis requires smart economic strategies that will maximize federal funding, improve our labor force and positively impact children's lives.

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