



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Senator Whelan to Conduct Home Visit with Child Abuse Prevention Program

New Brunswick, NJ - On July 14, 2009, the Honorable Jim Whelan of the 2nd District will visit with families benefiting an Atlantic County home visiting program working to support new parents by teaching them how to be strong, capable caregivers for the babies. The Senator will spend the afternoon with participants and staff from Healthy Families, a nationally recognized model for child abuse prevention offered in Atlantic County through the Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative and coordinated statewide by Prevent Child Abuse-New Jersey, to learn first-hand how the program is strengthening families and promoting healthy childhood outcomes. Whelan will shadow a worker as she helps a parent care for a newborn baby in safe and nurturing ways.

"I'm deeply committed to preventing child abuse and ensuring that New Jersey's children are raised in homes that have the capacity to nurture and encourage their growth," said Senator Whelan. "One way that we can ensure that families get off to the right start is to provide education and support around the time of birth.

Healthy Families-TIP is a signature program of Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey. Offered in all 21 counties, the program reaches out to new and expectant families to offer education and support that includes intensive home visits to teach families the basics caring for a baby while modeling nurturing parenting and encouraging healthy development and discipline. Several decades of research and practice across the country have proven that Healthy Families programs are highly effective in improving the health and well-being of children while preventing poor outcomes. For more information about Healthy Families visit www.preventchildabusenj.org or call 732-322-8514.

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