

Date **October 14, 2004**
Time **06:07 AM - 06:07 AM**
Station **WPKT-FM Radio**
Location **Hartford/New Haven, Conn.**
Program **WNPR News**

RAY HARDMAN, anchor:

According to a new report released Wednesday by the national nonpartisan group, Fostering Results, children in foster care can find safe permanent homes with grandparents or other relative care givers as an alternative to remaining in foster care. Connecticut adopted a wholly state funded subsidized guardianship program in 1997. The study found that federal funding support for relatives, who assume guardianship of children in state care, and the modification of eligibility requirements, could expand the use of this permanent adoption option. According to the child advocacy organization, Connecticut Voices For Children, expansion of the federal funding support also can bring in more than \$550,000 in additional funds to the state. Shelley Geballe is president of Connecticut Voices For Children.

Ms. SHELLEY GEBALLE (Connecticut Voices For Children, President): I once talked to a grandmother whose son and daughter had both died tragically. There were five grandchildren that she wanted to take in. She could only afford to take in three and two others were placed up the street. And when asked, why didn't you take in all five, what she said was, you know, love just can't buy sneakers. You--you have a lot of people who are willing to take in their relative children but love doesn't buy sneakers.

HARDMAN: Because Connecticut subsidized guardianship program is entirely state funded it is vulnerable to budget cuts. Analysts say if the federal matching funds become available, nearly 400 Connecticut children would benefit in 2005.

#