

STATE SENATOR • GILDA Z. JACOBS • 14<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

# Jacobs Press Release

P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • 517-373-7888 • Fax: 517-373-2983  
E-mail: sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov • www.senate.mi.gov/jacobs



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 29, 2008

Contact: Sen Gilda Z. Jacobs  
Phone: (517) 373-7888

## **SEN. JACOBS APPOINTED TO DHS CHILD WELFARE TASK FORCE**

*Group charged with reform of child welfare system*

**LANSING**— Sen. Gilda Z. Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods) has been appointed to the Michigan Child Welfare Improvement Task Force. The task force, announced by Department of Human Services (DHS) Director Ismael Ahmed and former director C. Patrick Babcock, is charged with setting the outcomes that will drive radical reform of Michigan's child welfare system.

"I'm not only honored to be asked to serve on this task force, but I am excited to join this knowledgeable group in bringing positive change to Michigan's child welfare system," Sen. Jacobs said. "Our efforts can make a difference and that's a powerful incentive."

The task force draws together committed individuals from private and public agencies, legislative leaders, advocacy groups and parents and children who have experience with the system. The task force will be co-chaired by Babcock and Carol Goss, president and CEO of the Skillman Foundation. Babcock, who served as director of what was called the Department of Social Services from 1987 to 1991, came out of retirement to assume his role.

The task force is charged with four principal priorities, including: Developing the guiding principals underlying the child welfare system; reviewing and assessing current federal and state standards on outcomes; recommending measurable outcomes for all child caring agencies, both public and private; and recommending action steps for state government to achieve these outcomes.

Senator Jacobs is the Minority Vice-Chair of two committees, Families & Human Services and Campaign & Election Oversight, with extensive experience in education and health and human services. She also serves on Finance, Economic Development & Regulatory Reform, and Health Policy committees.

###