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**WATCH says Supreme Court unallotment ruling highlights the lack of resources for vulnerable families and children**

MINNEAPOLIS (May 5, 2010) — The Minnesota Supreme Court's reversal today of Governor Tim Pawlenty's 2009 unallotments is a reminder of the damage Pawlenty's budget cuts have inflicted on social services, such as child protection in Hennepin County, said WATCH Executive Director Marna Anderson.

At nearly the same time the Court announced its decision, WATCH released a report which showed that parents, particularly women of color, face substantial and unrealistic burdens when trying to reunite their families.

The report, "Reasonable Efforts or Unrealistic Expectations: A Look at Hennepin County Child Protection Cases," noted that appropriate community resources are insufficient or unavailable for children and families in child protection cases, said Anderson.

"Governor Pawlenty's own Department of Human Services has launched an effort to reduce racial disparities in the child protection services system and reunite families whenever possible," said Anderson. "But deep budget cuts will not achieve this goal. We believe the administration should adequately invest in this initiative at both the state and local levels if it is going to be effective."

A copy of the report is available at [watchmn.org](http://watchmn.org).