



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

**Raised Bill No. 3**

LCO No. 531

\*00531\_\_\_\_\_KID\*

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:  
(KID)

**AN ACT DESIGNATING FOSTER PARENTS AS MANDATED REPORTERS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17a-101 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

3 (a) The public policy of this state is: To protect children whose  
4 health and welfare may be adversely affected through injury and  
5 neglect; to strengthen the family and to make the home safe for  
6 children by enhancing the parental capacity for good child care; to  
7 provide a temporary or permanent nurturing and safe environment for  
8 children when necessary; and for these purposes to require the  
9 reporting of suspected child abuse and neglect, investigation of such  
10 reports by a social agency, and provision of services, where needed, to  
11 such child and family.

12 (b) The following persons shall be mandated reporters: Any  
13 physician or surgeon licensed under the provisions of chapter 370, any  
14 resident physician or intern in any hospital in this state, whether or not  
15 so licensed, any registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, medical

16 examiner, dentist, dental hygienist, psychologist, coach of intramural  
17 or interscholastic athletics, school teacher, school principal, school  
18 guidance counselor, school paraprofessional, school coach, social  
19 worker, police officer, juvenile or adult probation officer, juvenile or  
20 adult parole officer, member of the clergy, pharmacist, physical  
21 therapist, optometrist, chiropractor, podiatrist, mental health  
22 professional or physician assistant, any person who is a licensed or  
23 certified emergency medical services provider, any person who is a  
24 licensed or certified alcohol and drug counselor, any person who is a  
25 licensed marital and family therapist, any person who is a sexual  
26 assault counselor or a battered women's counselor as defined in  
27 section 52-146k, any person who is a licensed professional counselor,  
28 any person paid to care for a child in any public or private facility,  
29 child day care center, group day care home or family day care home  
30 licensed by the state, any employee of the Department of Children and  
31 Families, any employee of the Department of Public Health who is  
32 responsible for the licensing of child day care centers, group day care  
33 homes, family day care homes or youth camps, the Child Advocate,  
34 [and] any employee of the Office of the Child Advocate and any foster  
35 parent.

36 (c) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall develop an  
37 educational training program for the accurate and prompt  
38 identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect. Such training  
39 program shall be made available to all persons mandated to report  
40 child abuse and neglect at various times and locations throughout the  
41 state as determined by the Commissioner of Children and Families.

42 (d) Any mandated reporter, as defined in subsection (b) of this  
43 section, who fails to report to the Commissioner of Children and  
44 Families pursuant to section 17a-101a shall be required to participate in  
45 an educational and training program established by the commissioner.  
46 The program may be provided by one or more private organizations  
47 approved by the commissioner, provided the entire costs of the  
48 program shall be paid from fees charged to the participants, the

49 amount of which shall be subject to the approval of the commissioner.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	17a-101

***Statement of Purpose:***

To include foster parents in the list of mandatory reporters of suspected child abuse and neglect.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*