



DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
TESTIMONY  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 13, 2007



**RAISED H.B. NO. 6955 – AN ACT CONCERNING OPERATOR’S LICENSES  
BEARING A SCHOOL ENDORSEMENT**

The Department of Children and Families supports the intent of RAISED H.B. NO. 6955 – AN ACT CONCERNING OPERATOR’S LICENSES BEARING A SCHOOL ENDORSEMENT. We welcome the opportunity to work with the Education Committee and other interested legislators in developing a system to ensure the safety of Connecticut’s children on their way to and from school.

It is estimated that approximately 3,500 child abuse registry checks would be required each year. We are pleased that the Governor’s budget funded an additional position to ease the burden on DCF to keep pace with the increased demand for child abuse registry checks, however, we want to make sure that we have the capacity to assume any new responsibilities, such as conducting registry checks of school bus operators. DCF is coordinating with the Department of Motor Vehicles to determine how best to facilitate this process, should this legislation be enacted.

Currently, the General Statutes require the following checks of the child abuse registry: (1) applicants for positions with Department of Children and Families, § 17a-6a; (2) persons sixteen years of age or older living in households of child placement applicants, § Sec. 17a-114; (3) participants in the child care subsidy program, § 17b-749k; and, (4) child day care centers and group day care homes, § 19a-77a and 19a-80.