

TESTIMONY OF
THE CONNECTICUT RECREATION AND PARKS ASSOCIATION

BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS
FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2007
11:00 AM, ROOM 2B, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING

Good morning. My name is Richard Norris. I am appearing today in my capacity as the Past President of the Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association ("CRPA") and the current Director of the Windsor Recreation and Leisure Services Department. The Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association represent at nearly 700 professionals in the area of Parks and Recreation and other leisure professions from 169 towns and cities in Connecticut.

Parks and Recreation provide activities and a safe haven for children in the state during non-school hours.

CRPA strongly supports H.B. No. 6248 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISCLOSURE OF THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAM.

Current law requires disclosure of personal information of children enrolled in Parks and Recreation Program to anyone that follows the FOI process. Like a school district we, who are entrusted with the safety of children should be exempt from providing such information. HB 6248 provides that protection. We need to protect our children.

We are in full support of providing information as it relates to the number of participants, ages, gender and home community in the aggregate of children enrolled in our programs, but not personal information such as: name, address and phone numbers. The public has a right to know who is participating in public programs and at what cost, but not the personal information.

Please support protecting our children by amending that section 1-210 of the general statute to exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act the names and addresses of children enrolled in parks and recreation programs.

This completes my testimony. Thank you for your consideration.