



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Testimony of Linda A. Orange
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March 16, 2007
Connecticut General Assembly
Joint Committee on GAE
Re: House Bill 6248

I would like to offer testimony regarding House Bill 6248, "*An Act Concerning The Disclosure Of The Names And Addresses Of Children Enrolled In Parks And Recreation Programs.*"

The goal of this bill is simple. It aims to add an exemption to Freedom of Information Act requirements to parks and recreation programs either operated by or sponsored by any government agency. Countless children in our state attend parks and recreation programs every day, and due to a legal loophole, their personal information is at risk.

As it stands now, any member of the public at-large can enter a parks and recreation office and request the enrollment information, which commonly includes addresses and phone numbers, of all parks and recreation program participants. This oversight in Connecticut's FOIA legislation allows identifying information of the children in these programs to be freely requested, and currently parks and recreation programs must comply.

Schools already enjoy the full protection of an FOIA exemption for the sole purpose of protecting the privacy of their students. It is time that parks and recreation programs enjoy that same exemption, so that the protection of a child's personal information does not end with the school day, but extends into any parks and recreation program the child participates in.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Rep. Linda Orange