



President  
SARA HERZ, Ph.D.

Chief Executive Officer  
PATRICK McAULIFFE

March 17, 2008

Dear Legislators, Lawmakers, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am Linda Mosel, Chief Operations Officer of Outpatient Services at Connecticut Renaissance. We operate the Family Support Center located in Bridgeport Connecticut. We are providing written testimony today to show our full support with Bill No. 5926 that is before you today. In particular the development of the Pilot Truancy Reduction Program outlined in Section 6 through Section 8 is a huge need within the City of Bridgeport.

To date, our Family Support Center in Bridgeport is serving 20 clients and their families. All of which are struggling with school issues especially truancy. The establishment of a Truancy Reduction Program in Bridgeport and other cities would assist clients and their families overcome issues with school attendance. Our Family Support Center's Educational Consultant and other staff would work in conjunction with the School Based Prevention Team to address the growing problem with school truancy. The families served to date in our Family Support Center have multi-layered problems and are high-end utilizers of the community services available to them. The Educational Consultant position within the Family Support Center is a unique position that is lacking in other programs offered within the community delivery system. The goal of this position is to work closely with the school systems to assist clients in overcoming problems they are experiencing at school. The development of the School Based Prevention Team would only strengthen this relationship with the goal of keeping our children in school and receiving an education that would in turn enhance their lives.

We strongly support Bill No. 5926 and encourage you to vote favorable on the development of the Pilot Truancy Reduction Program. Thank you very much for your consideration in another step toward providing our youth with a strong education that they can build upon as they become adults and move on with their lives.

Respectfully,

Linda Mosel  
COO – Outpatient Services  
Connecticut Renaissance, Inc.