

Monique M. Ferraro
Attorney-at-Law

Testimony Supporting SB 325
An Act Concerning the Commission on Child Protection
To the Judiciary Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly
February 25, 2008

Dear Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am writing in support of SB 325, An Act Concerning the Commission on Child Protection. I am a member of the Commission, appointed by Governor Rell, an attorney in private practice and the owner of a digital forensics laboratory.

First, I want to commend Chief Child Protection Attorney Carolyn Signorelli and her staff for their tireless efforts on behalf of Connecticut's children, particularly our most vulnerable children who are at-risk, neglected or abused. The Judiciary Committee has been very supportive of the Commission and its initiatives, and I'd like to thank you for your continued efforts. I would also like to thank Governor Rell for her continued support of the Commission and her efforts on behalf of our State's children.

As you know, SB 325 will accomplish several of the Commission's goals. It will: (1) increase staff within the Commission on Child Protection to provide and oversee mandated services'; (2) revise the role of attorneys and guardians ad litem in certain court proceedings; (3) provide immunity to contract attorneys who represent children; and (4) revise provisions concerning the confidentiality of certain Department of Children and Families' records and retain the Chief Child Protection Attorney's access to such records.

The requests are modest. They are calculated to further the ongoing goals of the Commission on Child Protection and incorporate the tools necessary to achieve the mandates you and the Governor set forth when you created the Commission.

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I urge you to report favorably on SB 325 and to urge the rest of your colleagues in the House and the Senate to approve it. The children of the State of Connecticut continue to rely on you to allow their voices to be heard and to facilitate their continued protection.

Yours sincerely and most respectfully,

Monique M. Ferraro, M.S., J.D., C.I.S.S.P.