



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE
MARCH 10, 2008**

S.B. No. 609 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING MANDATED REPORTERS.

The Department of Children supports S.B. No. 609 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING MANDATED REPORTERS.

This bill adds school superintendents to the list of those professionals mandated by law to report suspected child abuse and neglect. These mandated reporters are people in professions or occupations that have contact with children or whose primary focus is children. Mandated reporters are required to report or cause a report to be made when, in the ordinary course of their employment or profession, they have reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a child under the age of 18 has been abused, neglected or is placed in imminent risk of serious harm. In reporting in good faith, they are immune from civil and criminal liability. However, failure to report could result in fines up to \$500.

Currently, school teachers, principals, guidance counselors, paraprofessionals, social workers, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses and coaches are among the educational professionals on the list of mandated reporters. The Department believes that the addition of school superintendents is both logical and appropriate to this list.