

**ROVAC
Registrars of Voters Association of Connecticut**

GAE COMMITTEE – February 29, 2008

**In Support of - HB 5659 AAC THE SECURITY OF CHILDREN AT POLLING
LOCATIONS**

Sen. Slossberg, Representative Caruso, and members of the Committee

I am Bill Giesing, Registrar of Voters in the City of New London. I am here today to speak in favor of House Bill #5659 concerning security of children at polling places. As you know, there are some 800 polling places in CT and often towns must utilize school space. In many towns, schools are not in session, but many are in session. In today's world, given today's school security measures, it is near impossible to conduct an election in a school that is in session without undermining school security. This bill is timely and is an attempt to address an immediate problem of requesting assistance of proper authorities at the polls. We appreciate the Speaker's interest in this issue and strongly support this bill. We welcome increased involvement of all Boards of Education and will be happy to assist in the review as outlined in section 2.

ROVAC also has requested a meeting with the CT Association of School Superintendents on this very subject and expects to be meeting with them in March.

Thank you for your interest.