



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

**JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
MARCH 3, 2008**

**H.B. NO. 5699 AN ACT IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE
CUSTODY, CARE OR SUPERVISION OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CHILDREN AND
FAMILIES.**

The Department of Children and Families is opposed to H.B. No. 5699 (RAISED) AN ACT IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE CUSTODY, CARE OR SUPERVISION OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

This bill would impose additional scheduled hearings every three months for any child or youth in the care and custody or under the supervision of the Department in addition to hearings within fifteen days following certain enumerated changes in a child's case. In addition, it would impose new reporting requirements under these circumstances.

The Department questions the effectiveness of promoting better outcomes for children and families through increased court involvement that, in part, duplicates options that are available to address these issues through our treatment planning and administrative hearing processes. In addition, adding additional court hearings could unduly delay other important court proceedings that are already held concerning the child's permanency plan. Lastly, all parties currently have the option of filing a motion with the court to have these matters heard, and the court has the authority to issue any orders that it deems to be in the child's best interests.