

Donna Kosiorowski RN MS NCSN
3 Henry Drive
Shelton, Connecticut 06484
203-929-4019
Supervisor School Health Services
West Haven Board of Education
203-937-4332

SB No. 839: *An Act Concerning Mergers and Consolidation of Certain State Agencies*

Re; Office of the Child Advocate

March 16, 2009

To: Senator Gayle/Slossberg, Representative James.Spallone and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee.

The Bill, S.B. No. 839 *An Act Concerning Mergers and Consolidation of Certain State Agencies*, would eliminate the independent oversight and accountability for state funded services to children currently provided by the Office of the Child Advocate. As a school nurse and nursing supervisor, I have had personal experience with the Office of the Child Advocate.

This office has been the primary reason children entrusted to the care of DCF, referred to agencies for juvenile affairs, or involved in situations contrary to their physical or mental well being have gotten assistance. Although the assumption that the previously mentioned agencies exist for the benefit of Connecticut's children, the reality is that, in some cases, the agencies function in a less than optimal fashion. Children who rely on such agencies for help may become victims of a system designed to do just the opposite.

In the case of Daniel Suggs, the Office of the Child Advocate found that such agencies were deficient and a child was the most disastrous outcome. I urge the committee to consider these reasons for opposition to this bill.

Please contact me if you have questions or I can provide additional information.

Donna Kosiorowski RN MS NCSN