

3-16-09
GAE

Dear Senator Slossberg and Representative Spallone:

I respectfully request The Commission on Children not be eliminated as specified in Sec. 36. (25) S.B. 840: An act concerning the Elimination of the Office of Consumer Counsel, The Office of the Health Care Advocate, The Office of the Ombudsman for Property Rights and Certain Legislative Commissions.

In meeting its charge to bring together the three branches of government, The Commission on Children provides a voice for Connecticut's Children like no other entity in the state. For example, they have assisted the legislative and executive branches by researching current trends and making research-based recommendations concerning state-of-the-art policies in support of Connecticut's children. The Commission on Children has accomplished such significant services through collaborations with a variety of public and private organizations.

One example is the research, *Public school principals' experiences with interpreting and implementing Connecticut's anti-bullying law (CGS § 10-222d): A statewide survey**, that I, in my role as faculty at the University of Hartford, conducted free of charge in collaboration with the State Department of Education. The Commission on Children was instrumental in initiating the collaboration and ensuring that the State Department of Education kept its commitments to complete this critically important policy study. They then ensured that the legislature was made aware of the findings and helped to develop public policy that addressed identified areas of need. As this example suggests, The Commission on Children serves as a linchpin, an essential element in creating sound public policy for Connecticut's children.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.

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*LaRocco, D. J., Nestler-Rusack, D., & Freiberg, J. (2007). Public school principals' experiences with interpreting and implementing Connecticut's anti-bullying law (CGS § 10-222d): A statewide survey. Retrieved from http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/School_Improvement/Bullying/PrincipalBullyingSurvey2007Report.pdf