

Testimony of Joan Barbuto of the CT Coalition for Child Development Education in
Support of Proposed House Bill 5145, An Act Concerning Education of Students on the
Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome

Before the Select Committee on Children

Public Hearing February 5, 2009

I am unable to appear in person to speak in support of this bill, because of a medical appointment previously scheduled for the morning of Feb. 5, but please accept this testimony:

The Connecticut Coalition for Child Development Education supports Bill 5145, An Act Concerning Education of Students on the Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome. I have read many articles in the paper about babies who suffered severe brain damage or even death because of shaking by a parent or caregiver. The Record-Journal had an article not long ago about the mother of a 13-week-old baby who stood and watched as her boyfriend, 19, shook the girl when she wouldn't stop crying during a visit to his great-grandmother's home. The boyfriend was the child's father. The baby suffered bleeding in her brain and possible brain damage.

Shaken baby syndrome occurs, I believe, because no one ever teaches most young people or parents that shaking a baby can cause brain damage and/or death. This should be part of the education provided to all students, both boys and girls, who will be the parents of tomorrow. Children's lives are at stake!

Joan Barbuto, co-president

CT Coalition for Child Development Education

(membership list attached)

The following is a list of members of The Connecticut Coalition for Child Development Education

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Organizations that belong to the coalition

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(I never hear from him and don't know if he is still around.)

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