



**NARAL
Pro-Choice Connecticut**

Select Committee on Children

HB 6486, An Act Concerning Responsible Fatherhood and Strong Families

Written Testimony of Jillian Gilchrest, Executive Director

NARAL Pro-Choice Connecticut

February 26, 2009

NARAL Pro-Choice Connecticut is a statewide political advocacy not-for-profit that works to guarantee every woman the right to make personal decisions regarding the full range of reproductive choices, including prevention unintended pregnancy, bearing healthy children, and choosing legal abortion.

I am submitting written testimony in support of HB 6486, An Act Concerning Responsible Fatherhood and Strong Families because of this bill's attention to teen pregnancy prevention programs aimed at reducing teen fatherhood. Too often, men are overlooked in teen pregnancy prevention efforts. This bill requires that the Commissioner of Social Services report any teen pregnancy efforts aimed at reducing teen fatherhood to the Select Committee on Children.

Currently in Connecticut, sex education is not required and in many instances young people receive minimal to no sex education throughout their time in public school. NARAL Pro-Choice Connecticut recommends that the Commission of Social Services work with the Department of Education to ensure that our state's young women and men receive comprehensive, medically accurate, and age appropriate sex education that teaches abstinence, contraceptive methods, and healthy relationships.

It is imperative that our youth-men and women- receive the information they need to make responsible and healthy decisions. I find HB 6486 and the attention to preventing unintended pregnancy amongst our state's young men extremely encouraging and am looking forward to learning more about the efforts put forth by the Department of Social Services.

Thank you.

NARAL Pro-Choice Connecticut

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