



Commission On Child Protection
State of Connecticut

Office of the Chief Child Protection Attorney

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SELECT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN
Public Hearing February 23, 2010

Written Testimony of Carolyn Signorelli
Chief Child Protection Attorney

Good Afternoon Senator Musto, Representative Urban and distinguished Committee Members. For the record I am Carolyn Signorelli, Chief Child Protection Attorney with the Commission on Child. I thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in favor of S.B. 154, **AN ACT AUTHORIZING A DIFFERENTIAL RESPONSE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TO REPORTS OF CHILD ABUSE.**

As a member of the Steering Committee to Implement Differential Response in Connecticut, I fully support this bill to establish a legislative policy promoting a strength based and collaborative model for engaging families who are the subject of neglect allegations.

In relation to Section (g)(3) at line 127 I would request that there be further discussion regarding the language that requires: "the community providers to disclose to the department, consistent with the provisions of said section 17a-28, all relevant information gathered during assessment, diagnosis and treatment of the child and family. The department may use such information solely to monitor and ensure the continued safety and well being of the child or children." I think there should be clear guidance to the providers regarding what information is "relevant" and must be reported

to DCF. It seems that information other than what they would need to disclose as mandated reporters should remain confidential in order to promote a trusting and open relationship between the provider and the family. If the language read that they "shall disclose all information relevant for the department to ensure the continued safety and well-being of the child," that would be more consistent with their duties as mandated reporters while making families more comfortable sharing personal information.

I believe it is a priority to pass this legislation to permit DRS to move forward but I raise the above issue in order to address potential concerns of providers and parents that could influence their cooperation with the program.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Signorelli

Chief Child Protection Attorney

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