

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING

April 1, 2011

**HB 6636
SUPPORT**

*Testimony of Carolyn Signorelli
Chief Child Protection Attorney*



Commission on Child Protection
State of Connecticut

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Senator Coleman, Representative Fox and esteemed Committee Members, for the record, my name is Carolyn Signorelli, Chief Child Protection Attorney for the State of Connecticut.

I respectfully submit the following testimony concerning HB 6636, AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN CONVICTED AS DELINQUENT WHO ARE COMMITTED TO THE CUSTODY OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

As many of you are aware the Commission on Child Protection and my office are responsible for the system of legal representation for children and parents in cases of abuse, neglect and termination of parental rights brought by the Department of Children and Families in Juvenile Court. My office is also responsible for providing Guardians ad Litem in delinquency proceedings and also reimburses attorneys for representing individuals provided with counsel through discretionary "interest of justice" appointments who don't pay for their services. It is my responsibility to ensure that children and parents receive quality legal representation consistent with the Standards of Practice that the Commission on Child Protection has established pursuant to its enabling legislation.

My office supports the provisions contained in this bill providing discretion for a waiver of the "sixty-day evaluation of fitness and security risk" if the juvenile has been transferred from one facility to another and has already had such an evaluation and eliminating the requirement for a minimum one year stay at the Connecticut Juvenile Training School.

Thank you for this opportunity to be heard. If you have any questions, I would be happy to answer them.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Signorelli