



## State of Connecticut

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### Joint Committee on Children Public Hearing February 22, 2011

#### **Testimony on House Bill 6224, An Act Exempting Certain Non-Profit Organizations That Operate Drop-In Programs for Children From The State's Child Day Care Licensure Requirements**

Good afternoon Senator Musto, Senator Markley, Representative Urban, Representative Wood and Members of the Committee.

I am here to speak in favor of House Bill 6224 which amends the Day Care Licensing Statute to ensure that after school drop in programs, operated by non-profits, are treated equal to those similar organizations such as the Boys and Girls Clubs, which have an exemption in the day care licensing statute for their programs.

This is an important children's issue; it affects thousands of kids in this state who participate in after school drop in programs. If these programs are required to be licensed and are unable to meet the requirements either because of financial, staffing space or other limitations, it is the kids who lose.

The licensure requirement imposes a particularly onerous financial burden on non-profit organizations, which depend largely on fund raising and volunteerism in order to operate their programs.

Many of the children who participate in the after school drop in programs are from low income families living in inner cities. These programs provide supervised recreational and educational opportunities for such children and help to keep them off the streets.

Similar organizations-like the Boys and Girls Clubs, are already exempt by statute. Given the similarity of programming, it is puzzling why this exemption does not include after school drop in programs operated by non-profits as well.

I understand there is a great deal of confusion among non-profits concerning whether they are required to be licensed as a day care center. The intent here is to remove that confusion, with respect to non-profits, that operate after school drop in programs.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill.