

Select Committee on Children

PUBLIC HEARING

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Testimony of Carolyn Signorelli  
Chief Child Protection Attorney  
330 Main Street, 2nd Fl.  
Hartford, CT 06106  
860-566-1341  
Fax: 860-566-1349  
carolyn.signorelli@jud.ct.gov

RB No. 6340: Support

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Good Morning Senator Musto, Representative Urban and esteemed Committee Members. My name is Carolyn Signorelli, Chief Child Protection Attorney for the State of Connecticut. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony in support of Raised Bill 6340, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-STATE TREATMENT FACILITIES.

I support this proposal because aside from the obvious concerns about placing children far from their families and communities, there is little to no empirical support for the efficacy of residential placements towards the ultimate goals of child welfare to improve the well-being and futures of these children.<sup>1</sup>

One of my proposals in response to the Governor's request for cost-saving measures to address our budget deficit is to "prevent DCF from placing children in Residential Treatment Facilities as there is insufficient support for long-term benefits of such programs to children and to transition funds allocated for residential costs to community services, including in home interventions."

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<sup>1</sup>Burns, B.J., Hoagwood, K. & Maultsby, L.T., Improving Outcomes for Children and Adolescents with Serious Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: Current and Future Directions. ("A dominant observation is that the least evidence of effectiveness exists for residential services, where the vast majority of dollars are spent."); Chamberlain, P., Treatment Foster Care, US Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*, December, 1998. Brown, E.C. & Greenbaum, P.E., Reinstitutionalization After Discharge from Residential Mental Health Facilities: Competing Risks Survival Analysis.