

Select Committee on Children

PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

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

SB No. 1044: Support w/ change

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 regarding Senate Bill 1044, AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TO CONDUCT ABUSE OR NEGLECT INVESTIGATIONS OF YOUTHS ARRESTED FOR PROSTITUTION.

I support this legislation, however in order to make the language consistent with the Department's use of its Differential Response System (DRS), I suggest the language in lines 29-31 be changed from "Not later than twenty-four hours after receiving such report, the department shall commence a child abuse or neglect investigation" to "The Department is required to accept the referral."

With this change, the Department has the option of referring the family to its DRS track if it deems appropriate, as opposed to commencing their traditional investigation. The goal of this legislation, providing access to services for youths who are victims of prostitution, would still be achieved.

Thank you for this opportunity to be heard. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Signorelli