

American
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Pediatrics

HEZEKIAH BEARDSLEY
CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

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Testimony Regarding House Bill 5186
AA Adopting a Foster Parent Bill of Rights

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The Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics is the membership organization for nearly 1000 primary care, surgical and academic pediatricians, and our goal is to maintain the best health for the children of this state.

We are in complete agreement and support of HB 5186. It only makes sense to support and help the dedicated foster parents who take in related children or children they may have never met. It is a very difficult and trying time for the child and the foster family. We must move from adversarial relationship to one that is fair and respectful to all parties, most especially the children.

Members of our organization take care of children in custody of the State of CT, and we see very difficult situations every day. We have worked with DCF in trying to make the medical care of the children better and a priority. We are hopeful that with a new administration and leadership at DCF, there will be increased concern for their health.

We congratulate the Children's Committee for making the effort in serving not only the children in foster care, but the families who are the backbone of the program.