

The Connecticut General Assembly

Senator Toni N. Harp – 10th District



Good morning Senator Gerratana, Representative Urban, Ranking Members and all who serve on the Select Committee on Children. I represent Senator Toni Harp with regard to her support for Raised Bill 294, An Act Concerning Children and the Department of Children and Families. The senator would like her remarks read into the committee's official transcript.

This bill would require DCF personnel to visit foster children every 60 days, at a minimum. Currently, the interval for these visits is every 90 days; I believe 90 days is too long to wait before returning to check on children in transition who are likely more vulnerable as a result of upheaval in their lives.

As we know there are times, thankfully not very often, when the foster home care does not live up to reasonable expectations when a child is first brought into the home of a foster family. And sometimes, unfortunately, there are times when conditions and circumstances at a foster home are not substantially better than the home from which a child has been removed.

I believe an accelerated, 60-day interval between DCF visits, in accordance with this bill, is important to ensure the continuing relationship between a

child and its foster home continues to be a good match for each party. I believe moving these assessments from 90 days to 60 days will protect both the children and the foster parents from remaining in a situation that – for whatever reason – isn't working the way DCF anticipated or the way either party requires.

Thank you very much for your time, and thank you in advance for your favorable consideration of this bill.

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