

Bill 6682, An Act Concerning Collaboration between local Boards of Education and Law Enforcement Agencies.

My name is AnnMarie Duffy and I am a member of Connecticut Association of School Psychologists (CASP). Our organization joins Keep The Promise coalition in support of the revised language proposed in Bill 6682, An Act Concerning Collaboration between BOEs and Law Enforcement Agencies.

CASP supports adopting language that allows school districts to adopt and implement a policy, or enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the chief of police of the local law enforcement agency regarding daily interactions between students, school personnel and law enforcement personnel. The memorandum would include information regarding arrests of a student at school-sponsored activities conducted on/ or off-school property. A memorandum would promote conversations that identify and address issues impacting our children in real time. These conversations would advance enhanced collaboration of effective services through school/ community partnerships

Truancy and discipline referrals in school are often indicative of a student who is unavailable to the educational process due to social/ emotional needs. Negative behavior exhibited by an individual student can have a disruptive impact on the education of others. Involvement of law enforcement leading to school-based arrests does not address mental health needs with intervention services.

We support a memorandum of understanding between school personnel and law enforcement that leads to maximizing limited resources when developing effective mental health intervention services.