



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

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**Testimony of the Honorable Carol A. Wolven
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
April 5, 2013**

**H.B. 6682, An Act Concerning Collaboration between Boards of Education and
Law Enforcement Personnel**

Senator Coleman, Representative Fox, Senator Kissel, Representative Rebimbas, and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Carol Wolven and I am the Judicial Branch's Chief Administrative Judge for Juvenile Matters. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony, on behalf of the Judicial Branch, in support of **H.B. 6682, *AAC Collaboration between Boards of Education and Law Enforcement Personnel***.

This bill addresses the very important issue of school-based arrests by requiring local and regional boards of education to adopt policies, or enter into memoranda of understanding with law enforcement agencies, concerning the use of law enforcement personnel in schools. This issue has been brought to the forefront by the tragedy at the Sandy Hook Elementary School, which has greatly increased the impetus to station police officers in public schools. While the motivation for this trend is to ensure the safety of schoolchildren, school resource officers do have the authority to arrest students, and experience shows that there are higher rates of arrest in schools with resource officers than those without them. We have seen the impact of this in our Juvenile Courts. Experience has also shown that having an agreement or policy in place to set clear guidelines and promote a graduated approach to school incidents has the effect of reducing arrests and ensuring that arrests made at a school or a school-sponsored activity are appropriate. The experiences of Bridgeport and Hartford bear this out – in those cities putting memoranda of understanding in place reduced the number of school arrests.

As more and more schools are seriously considering stationing police officers in their schools, time is of the essence. I urge the Committee to act favorably on this proposal. Thank you for your consideration.