



Mary C. Roberts
Director

Testimony of Donna Ramos-Casiano
CT Federation of Catholic School Parents
Committee on Education
March 17, 2014
House Bill 5564, *"An Act Concerning School Safety"*

Senator Stillman, Representative Fleischmann and other distinguished members of the Education Committee, my name is Donna Ramos-Casiano, and I am a parent of two children who attend Saint Mary School in Milford. I appreciate being afforded this opportunity to offer my comments in support of House Bill 5564, *"An Act Concerning School Safety."*

Within the last year, in the wake of the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy, many schools throughout Connecticut have made the decision to improve security procedures for their students. Many of Connecticut's Catholic schools have improved security at a cost because they feel that this cost is one that is not only necessary, but vital. As a result of these expenditures, schools have had to make cuts in other vital areas.

ALL students deserve a safe learning environment, regardless of where they attend school. I believe that the State of Connecticut has an ethical obligation to ensure that students in Catholic and other non-public schools have the same security as students in our public schools. I urge you to support House Bill 5564, and to allow our Catholic schools access to the security grant funding available to public schools in Connecticut. Please help us to keep all of Connecticut's students safe.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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