



JFACT

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**March 17, 2014 Testimony before the Education Committee in
the Support of SB 5564, An Act Concerning School Safety.**

Senator Stillman and Representative Fleischmann and members of the Education Committee. On behalf of the Jewish community of 125,000 in CT. we thank you for raising HB 5564 which would allow our 20 Jewish day and high schools to compete fairly for public safety security infrastructure grants for nonpublic schools. In the wake of 9/11, both Homeland Security and the FBI send to us periodic alerts cautioning the Jewish community to be aware of attacks on our Jewish institutions. Incidences of terror attacks in these past 10 years have occurred in New York, Los Angeles and Seattle where two people were murdered. Congress has recognized the need to provide security funds for nonprofits and through the Dept. of Homeland Security Jewish schools, synagogues, churches and mosques have received funding as well as Jewish agencies such as the Mandell Jewish Community Center in West Hartford. When it comes to the issue of security, the Federal government does not see it as a separation of Church and State issue. JFACT is also pleased Governor Malloy has proposed infrastructure funding for public school security in SB 29 and we have spoken with his office to request amending section 9(e)(2) from the words Public to Public and Nonpublic schools. We strongly believe the State should support including Nonpublic schools that are equally at risk for the type of terrible tragedy as the one that occurred at Sandy Hook Elementary School on Dec. 14, 2012.

We are grateful for the state's generous support of bus transportation and nursing services to Parochial schools. JFACT hopes you will clearly support HB 5564 to include Parochial schools in enhancing their security.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Fishman

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The Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut (JFACT) serves as a legislative representative for the nine Connecticut Jewish Federations and their associated agencies, an associate for the Jewish Community, a public affairs spokesperson and coordinator on statewide programs on issues of mutual interest and concern in the state of Connecticut and Israel.