



John L. Cattelan
Executive Director, Connecticut Alliance of YMCAs
S.B. 492, AAC the Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse by Persons who are
Directors, Officers or Employees of Nonprofit Corporations
Judiciary Committee
March 31, 2014

Senator Coleman, Representative Fox and members of the Judiciary Committee,
thank you for the opportunity to testify.

My name is John Cattelan and I am here today on behalf of the Connecticut Alliance of YMCAs. The Alliance represents 23 YMCAs across the state of Connecticut.

I'm here today to raise concerns on S.B. 492, AAC the Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse by Persons who are Directors, Officers or Employees of Nonprofit Corporations.

Every employee category is already a mandated reporter. I'm not sure of the reason to legislate this when it is current law.

We are concerned with the language in this bill that designates volunteer officers and directors, who serve on our YMCA Boards, as mandated reporters. This would expose our board volunteers, who absolutely no contact with children, to a class A misdemeanor and possible liability.

It could also place our volunteers in the position of having to defend against a claim of negligence because they should have known what was happening at a particular organization.

Like many non-profits, Connecticut's YMCAs have a difficult time in identifying and recruiting quality volunteers to serve as directors or officers. We are concerned this bill could exasperate this problem.