



# University of Connecticut

## Committee on Children

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Public Hearing

Written Testimony

Submitted By

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Director

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University of Connecticut

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of *House Bill 5040, An Act Concerning the Department of Children and Families and the Protection of Children.*

The University has always been committed to ensuring a safe yet welcoming environment for students, employees and visitors, and complying with all relevant laws. The University's Code of Conduct and policies have long set an expectation that the actions of University community members reflect fundamental moral and ethical values, in accordance with established policies, procedures, laws and regulations.

### UNIVERSITY POLICY

To further promote compliance with those expectations, in January 2012 the University adopted the UConn Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Policy. The purpose of this policy is to remind University employees who are "mandated reporters" under the law of their reporting obligations, educate employees as to what constitutes child abuse or neglect under the law, and encourage those employees who are not mandated reporters to report suspected child abuse by reminding them that they are entitled to protection under the law for all such reports made in good faith, even if that report is later found unsubstantiated.

### STUDENT WORKERS

The bill applies to employees, but does not include student workers as employees who are mandatory reporters. UConn supports this provision. At any given time UConn employs over 5000 students part-time in various work assignments where they are closely supervised by full-time University staff members. Most student employment assignments are not in programs that serve young children. Given that student

employees are closely supervised by full-time staff who would be mandatory reporters under the proposed legislation, the University agrees that it is not necessary to classify students as mandatory reporters.