

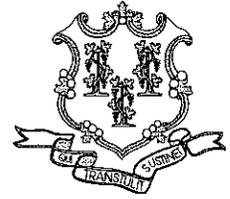


STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Public Hearing Testimony

Children's Committee

February 27, 2014



S.B. No. 203 AN ACT CONCERNING A STATE-WIDE SEXUAL ABUSE AND ASSAULT AWARENESS PROGRAM

The Department of Children and Families **supports** S.B. No. 203, An Act Concerning a State-Wide Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness Program. This bill requires DCF, in collaboration with the Departments of Education and Social Services, to identify or develop a state-wide sexual abuse and assault awareness program for use by local and regional Boards of Education.

This bill is based on Erin's Law, an effort led by Erin Merryn of Illinois, a survivor of childhood sexual abuse. To date, Erin's law has been signed into law in nine states: Illinois; Missouri; Indiana; Maine; Michigan; Arkansas; Mississippi; Nevada; and Vermont.

Sadly, it is estimated that one in five children will be abused or neglected before they reach the age of 18. DCF believes that greater awareness of this issue will let children know that help is available and also will assist educators in their duties as mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect.
