

CCDLA
"Ready in the Defense of Liberty"
Founded 1988

**Connecticut Criminal Defense
Lawyers Association**
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March 4, 2015

The Honorable Eric D. Coleman
The Honorable William Tong
Chairmen
Joint Committee on Judiciary
Room 2500, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Re: Committee Bill No. 6186 – An Act Protecting School Children

Dear Chairmen and Committee Members:

The Connecticut Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (CCDLA) is a statewide organization of over 300 licensed lawyers, in both the public and private sectors, dedicated to defending persons accused of criminal offenses. Founded in 1988, the CCDLA works to improve the criminal justice system by ensuring that the individual rights guaranteed by the Connecticut and United States constitutions are applied fairly and equally and that those rights are not diminished.

With regard to **Committee Bill No. 6186, An Act Protecting School Children**, the CCDLA endorses the testimony of the Office of the Chief Public Defender regarding the impact the mandated reporter statute and these proposed changes will have on the delivery of legal representation services and a defendant's constitutional right to effective assistance of counsel under the 6th Amendment. The CCDLA joins with the Office of the Chief Public Defender to urge this Committee not to raise the penalties for non-reporting which were very recently adopted. The CCDLA also joins with the Office of the Chief Public Defender to request that this Committee re-consider whether it is good public policy to require mandated reporting by social workers employed in law office settings since this requirement significantly infringes upon the attorney-client privilege, client confidentiality, and the 6th Amendment right to effective assistance of counsel.

Respectfully submitted,


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