



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

**Public Hearing Testimony
Committee on Children
February 17, 2015**



PROPOSED H.B. No. 5658 AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL SURROGATES, THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM AND CHILDREN REQUIRING SPECIAL EDUCATION.

The Department of Children and Families **offers the following comments regarding** Proposed H.B. No. 5658, An Act Concerning Educational Surrogates, the Juvenile Justice System and Children Requiring Special Education.

This bill would require that an educational surrogate to be provided to any child with special education needs who is currently involved in the juvenile justice system.

DCF defers to the State Department of Education regarding the policy and fiscal implication of this legislation, as the Surrogate Parent program resides under the jurisdiction of SDE. If this legislation does move forward, we would urge that language be included to provide parental consent regarding the appointment of educational surrogates for those youth who are solely committed delinquent as opposed to those dually committed youth (delinquent and child protective).