

Marna Wilber
Director of Corporate
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Relations

Testimony of Marna Wilber
**In support of HB 6912 - An Act Concerning the
School Security Grant Program**

PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

Dear Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee:

My name is, Marna Wilber and I'm writing to testify on HB 6912 An Act Concerning the School Security Grant Program.

As a New Haven-based manufacturer of hardware, locks and doors, and an employer of more than 1,000 employees in Connecticut, our company has seen a tremendous amount of attention at the district and individual school level to improve school security. Making the best decisions often takes time as it is not a matter of just purchasing a few new locks, cameras or barriers. School security programs work best when they take an overall all hazards approach while working with many interested constituents and community partners and experts.

Most schools we see in need of a security upgrade, were constructed prior to April 20, 1999. Why that date? It is the date of the tragic Columbine High School Shooting. It was only soon after this event that classroom locks that lock from the inside, were even invented.

We all have read many articles outlining the potential life saving upgrades, like this one described could achieve. Classroom locks that lock from the inside are just one of the recommendations from both the School Safety Infrastructure Standards Work Group and the Sandy Hook Advisory Commission.

I encourage you to extend the deadline for the School Security Grant Program and support HB 6912. This valuable deadline extension will allow our remaining schools to finalize their new and improved security plans, put their programs in action and make our schools that much more secure.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Marna Wilber

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