



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Public Hearing Testimony  
Committee on Children  
February 17, 2015



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## Proposed S.B. No. 622 AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO RECORDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

The Department of Children and Families **offers the following comments regarding** Proposed S.B. No. 622, An Act Concerning Access to Records of the Department of Children and Families.

In recent years, the Department has worked with the General Assembly to expand the sharing of necessary information with a number of entities. Currently, section 17a-28 provides access to DCF records to: the Office of the Child Advocate, which has full access to the records and authority to investigate DCF's actions; parents, who also have full access; and, police and prosecutors, who can have access to the records if a criminal case is about the abuse or neglect of a child. The statute also identifies the circumstances through which appropriate legislative committees or the Governor's office can get access to DCF records.

To the extent this bill is meant to provide the public access to DCF records, the Department would caution the Committee to ensure that there are appropriate protections of the privacy rights of families.