



State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Testimony of
Senator Mae Flexer
Representative Christine Rosati
In Support Of H.B. 6579, An Act Concerning Developmental Screenings for Children
Public Health Committee
March 4, 2015

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee. We offer this testimony in support of H.B. 6579, An Act Concerning Developmental Screenings for Children.

This legislation would require pediatric health professionals to complete the section on the yellow Health Assessment Record form, indicating whether or not a developmental screening was completed during the visit. These completed forms are requested by early childhood providers when a child is enrolled in a program. This information is vitally important. If a screening was not completed at the pediatric provider office, a screening may be done by the early childhood provider/program.

According to the Child Health and Development Institute of Connecticut (CHDI), while data on the number of screenings being done is collected, they are not able to determine the number of children actually screened or the percent of Connecticut's children receiving developmental screening through their pediatric health services, early care and education programs or home visiting services. Missing information on whether providers performed developmental screenings hinders the ability to accurately collect this important data.

This data is necessary to avoid duplicate screenings, identify gaps and achieve cost savings in special education. This legislation will help determine the number of children who are being screened, prevent children from falling through the cracks, identify delays and connect them to appropriate early interventions, including mental/behavioral health services.

This bill simply ensures that health care providers who perform physical examinations indicate on health assessment record forms, in the existing box, whether a developmental screening has been performed. This simple change will ensure results from screenings are shared across early childhood settings, increasing opportunities for early intervention and accurate data collection.

Additionally, this bill will have no fiscal impact, and places no additional financial burden on health providers. Thank you very much for your consideration, and we urge you to support this legislation.