



Connecting Donors Who Care With Causes That Matter

March 16, 2015

HB 6891 AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO BIRTH RECORDS BY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

The Community Foundation of Greater New Britain, serving the communities of Berlin, New Britain, Plainville and Southington, believes there is perhaps no more significant challenge facing our communities than ensuring that our children are equipped to lead healthy, productive lives. That's why, as part of its role as a proactive community partner, the Community Foundation created *First Years First* in 2005, a long-term commitment to prepare the children of Berlin, New Britain, Plainville and Southington for success in school and in life by enhancing their early childhood development experience. Since then, the Community Foundation has **invested more than \$1.5 Million** in grant awards to strengthen early childhood programs in our area, and worked to develop partnerships with our area School Districts, Tunxis Community College, numerous Family and Center-based early care providers and community collaborations.

In that role, the Community Foundation of Greater New Britain is proud to act as fiduciary and major funder to **two significant community coalitions** of nonprofit agencies, school districts, early care providers and interested parents in the communities of **New Britain and Southington**. These two community-based organizations, the **Coalition for New Britain's Youth** and the **Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington** respectively, are dedicated to creating and implementing coordinated Community Plans to improve early childhood services to their community's young children and families. The passage of HB 6891 with its inclusion of local School Superintendents as having access to local Birth Records will materially aid this work. This legislation will allow such local coalitions to work in partnership with their local School Superintendents to provide age-appropriate child development information and resources to families at key developmental benchmarks. Such information will equip local families to both be better educated and more aware of the existence of such resources in their local communities, as well as to become engaged with the early childhood and school communities far earlier.

Therefore, it is for these reasons and more, that the Community Foundation of Greater New Britain encourages the Public Health Committee to **support the approval of HB 6891**, An Act Concerning Access to Birth Records by School Superintendents.

Sincerely,

James G. Williamson
President