



Connecticut
Early Childhood
Alliance

Testimony of Merrill Gay
Executive Director, Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance
Before the Public Safety Committee
March 3, 2015

Testimony in favor of *H.B. No. 6910 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING NOTIFICATION BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO DAY CARE CENTERS.

Senator Larson, Representative Dargan, members of the committee

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Merrill Gay; I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance, a statewide membership organization committed to ensuring that all children in Connecticut are healthy, safe and ready for lifelong success.

I'm here today to speak in favor of HB 6910 An Act Concerning Notification by Law Enforcement Agencies to Day Care Centers. This bill was inspired by the experience of one of our members. She runs a daycare center in New Haven and received an anxious phone call from a parent of one of the children in her care. The parent had just received notification of a lock down at her older child's elementary school. The school, just a few blocks from the daycare was in lock down due to an active shooter situation in the neighborhood. The parent called the daycare to see if her younger child was OK. You can imagine that the daycare director's shock to learn that there was an active shooter situation in her neighborhood and how uncomfortable it was to hear this not from an official source but rather an hysterical parent.

Obviously there was a protocol that triggered the school lock down. We're asking that there be a similar protocol for licensed childcare programs. None of us want to ever want to go through another school shooting and that's why we have the lock down procedures at schools. It would be no less traumatic if it happened at a daycare center, and that's we're asking that you require local police to notify childcare centers whenever they notify schools of a reason to go into lock down. We are only asking that the police provide the information so that daycare programs can keep their children safe.

Thank you for listening, and I would be happy to answer questions.