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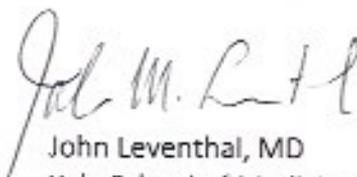
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March 1, 2016

To whom it may concern:

1. We write in strong support of the passage of Raised Bill No. 316: AN ACT CONCERNING THE POSTING OF CARELINE INFORMATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.
2. We are three board certified Child Abuse Pediatricians who staff the Yale New Haven Children's Hospital Child Abuse Center of Excellence. We evaluate children who have been abused and have over 50 years of collective experience in this role. Between us, we have evaluated thousands of children. Many of them are exclusive Spanish speakers.
3. Child victims are often terrified to disclose what has happened or is happening to them. Many perpetrators actively threaten their child victims with harm or the harm to others whom the child victim loves. Adult survivors of abuse frequently report that they told no one of their abuse when they were a child.
4. Most perpetrators of child abuse are known to their child victims. Many perpetrators are family members of the child victim. Child victims, therefore, may be especially frightened about disclosing their abuse for fears of disrupting their own families. Schools can be safe havens for such child victims, and smoothing pathways for children to disclose in school is likely to increase children's willingness to tell.
5. Child abuse constitutes a serious and dangerous source not only of immediate harm to children but also of severe downstream consequences to general and mental health in adulthood. Early detection of child abuse may save children's lives and delayed detection is likely to increase downstream harm in adulthood.
6. The posting of child abuse Careline information in schools is a low cost mechanism of increasing avenues for potentially life saving disclosures of child abuse. Such posting transmits to children that schools care, and that schools support telling.


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