State of Connecticut

SENATE

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March 2, 2016

Dear Senator Slossberg, Representative Fleishman, and members of the Education Committee,

I am here to offer support for SB319 an **Act concerning notification to schools of protective or restraining orders affecting students.**

I believe this bill, if passes, will fill a void in the system and allow for increased protection of children who may be caught in the middle of adult disputes.

Court orders of custody and protective or restraining orders are often implemented by the courts, and the school districts, to whom the children are entrusted, have no direct knowledge of the order. This lack of direct knowledge opens up the risk of harming a child if he or she is released to a potentially unstable parent or guardian.

This bill would have the courts simply notify the school or district charged with educating a child who is in the care of the district at the time the order is issued.

I suggest this to be a simple, common sense, proactive solution that puts the child's safety first and foremost.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Paul M. Formica
State Senator
District 20