



2189 Silas Deane Highway, Suite 2 • Rocky Hill, Connecticut 06067  
860.258.3400 tel 860.258.3410 fax • www.cafap.com

February 16, 2015

Testimony on SB 72

Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban, and members of the Children's Committee:

My name is Carolyn Goodridge. I am the Social Worker and Public Policy Liaison for the Connecticut Association of Foster and Adoptive Parents. Our non-profit agency supports, trains and advocates for foster, adoptive and relative caregiver parents throughout the state.

We strongly support SB 72, An Act Concerning a Notification of Support for Foster Parents and Relative Caregivers.

As an agency which partners with The Department of Children & Families, we know first-hand how much the department values the licensed families that provide care to the vulnerable children that are placed in these homes. The department is dedicated to educating these families with trauma-informed trainings, empowering them to provide the care these children need, and they recognize that being involved is best for all members of the team.

Ten states have passed statutes guarding the rights of foster parents and caregivers. Nine additional states recognize the rights of foster parents and caregivers in policy statements of support. As a leader in so many other aspects of child welfare, Connecticut should also recognize the rights and roles of these families in state statute.

We urge passage of this bill to help to bring the respect and consideration that our foster and relative families earn and deserve.

Carolyn Goodridge, Social Worker and Public Policy Liaison

Connecticut Association of Foster and Adoptive Parents

2008 Recipient of The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute's *Angel in Adoption Award*