



Support for SB 186, AAC Child Protective Services Workers

February 23, 2016

Good afternoon Chairman Bartolomei, Chairman Urban and members of the Committee on Children. My name is Paul Lavallee. I am president of Council 4 AFSCME Local 2663, which represents the majority of workers in the Department of Children and Families.

We **support** SB 186. This bill makes threatening violence against a DCF social worker, supervisor, manager, case worker, case aide or investigator a Class C felony. There have been several cases of threats made against our members who are attempting to do their child protection duty.

Last year a Vermont state child protective services worker was murdered in the line of duty. Sadly, this is not the only case of a child protective services workers being killed while trying to protect children. We want to take every reasonable step to prevent such a thing from happening in Connecticut.

Our members work unarmed and often alone. The very nature of the work they do to protect the children and youth of Connecticut is stressful. Passing this bill gives the state a tool to reduce threats and the assaults that may escalate from such threats.

This bill will demonstrate that Connecticut will not tolerate aggressive behavior against those workers who strive to protect our children. This bill will help to alleviate the stress and trauma linked with child protection work. Keeping these workers safe and healthy will minimize costs related to worker's compensation.

We urge you to vote for this bill. I would be happy to answer any questions.