

## Legislative History for Connecticut Act

### PA 19-106

#### HB6184

House	1615-1624	10
Senate	4362-4372	11
Children	671, 674-675, 704-706, 778-783, 867, 868, 908- 911, 948-949	20
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Transcripts from the Joint Standing Committee Public Hearing(s)  
and/or Senate and House of Representatives Proceedings

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please. Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Bill 6540 as amended by House "A",

Total number Voting	147
Necessary for Passage	74
Those voting Yea	121
Those voting Nay	26
Those absent and not Voting	3

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The bill as amended passes. (Gavel) Will the  
Clerk please call Calendar No. 94?

CLERK:

On page 9, House Calendar 94, Substitute House  
Bill, No. 6184 - AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO  
INFORMATION ON EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTIONS,  
favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on  
Children.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Linehan.

REP. LINEHAN (103RD):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move for

acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Representative Linehan.

REP. LINEHAN (103RD):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This bill would require the Office of the Early Childhood to develop a one-page document listing key developmental milestones for children and require that it is placed conspicuously in daycare centers. And, Madam Speaker, the Clerk has an amendment, LCO, No. 7432, and I would ask the Clerk to please call that amendment and that I be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Will the Clerk please call LCO 7432, which will be designated as House Amendment Schedule "A"?

CLERK:

House Amendment Schedule "A", LCO, No. 7432,

offered by Representative Linehan and Representative Rochelle, et al.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize. Is there objection? Objections? Seeing none, hearing none. Representative Linehan.

REP. LINEHAN (103RD):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This amendment changes the age range affected in the underlying bill from zero to three, to zero to five. I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question before the Chamber is on adoption of House Amendment Schedule "A". Will you remark on the amendment before us? Will you remark on the amendment before us? Representative Green of the 55th, you have the floor, madam.

REP. GREEN (55TH):

There we go. Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is a friendly amendment and we do support it. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Will you care to remark on the amendment before us? Will you care to remark on the amendment before us? If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor, please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

All those opposed, nay. The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted. (Gavel) Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Representative Linehan.

REP. LINEHAN (103RD):

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Just to reiterate that this bill requires that the Office of Early Childhood develops a one-page document listing key developmental milestones for children from ages birth to five. That information will be available for download and childcare centers will have to

place that in a conspicuous area. This did pass out of committee unanimously and it has no fiscal note.

Through you, Madam Speaker. Oh, I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Representative Green.

REP. GREEN (55TH):

There we go. Thank you. Thank you, Madam Speaker. We support this bill. This is a good bill. It exposes early childhood to zero to five and it also gives parents an option of knowing what they need to do at the next step and that here is the criteria that you need to meet for zero to five and that if you need further services. So, I recommend to my colleagues to support the bill.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Representative

Rochelle, you have the floor.

REP. ROCHELLE (104TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just want to thank my Chairs, the Ranking Members, the Co-Chairs for all of their work on this bill. This bill was borne out of conversations that happened in my local council of boards of education. They were speaking to a need for more avenues for children to get assessed earlier and have -- to know the avenues earlier to get treatment if they are falling behind on their developmental steps. So, this is a way that our government can be responsive to make life easier for kids that are falling behind. As the daughter of a daycare provider and a sister of somebody with autism, I'm excited to see this bill go forward so that we can be further assisting those who need help.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Representative



Comey.

REP. COMEY (102ND):

I thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support of bill 6184 as amended and I urge my colleagues to support this bill as well. Science tells us that the early childhood years are the most critical for children's development and as we know, as parents, there is no handbook for being a parent, and we have a motto in my business as a child advocate and as a parent advocate, which is, *you don't know what you don't know until you don't know it*. So, this bill will make available information for parents on children's development and, of course, the milestones to be aware of. We should be continually striving to make parents and caregivers aware of the Office Early Childhood's resources and the programs, and especially when they focus on early intervention.

I think this bill is one more thing that we can do to provide parents with information that no matter what childcare facility that they're in,

whether it's a family care setting, whether it's a center setting, that they have opportunities to learn more about their development on the children. So, we can do this all together to ensure that our kids have a strong foundation and they're learning, they're healthy, they're cared for and they have the resources they need and are ready to succeed in life.

So, I thank Representative Rachelle for her work on introducing this bill. I'm very proud to be working with her as a cosponsor and as Vice-Chair of the Children's Committee. And I'm happy that we'll be working on this. So, I urge everyone to, all my colleagues here today, to support this bill.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Will you care to remark further on the bill before us? Will you care to remark further on the bill before us? If not, staff and guests please come to the well of the House. Members take their seats. The machine will be

opened.

(Ringing)

CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll.

Members to the Chamber. The House of  
Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the  
Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Have all the members voted? Have all the  
members voted? Please check the board to determine  
if your vote has been properly cast. If so, the  
machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a  
tally. And will the Clerk please announce the  
tally?

CLERK:

House Bill 6184, amended by House "A",

Total number Voting	148
Necessary for Passage	75
Those voting Yea	148
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not Voting	2

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The bill as amended passes. (Gavel) Thank you,  
Mr. Clerk, and would you now please call Calendar  
No. 178?

CLERK:

On page 20, Calendar 178, House Bill, No. 5517  
- AN ACT CONCERNING LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES AND  
CONTRACTS THAT INSURE THE LIVES OF CONVICTED FELONS,  
favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on  
Insurance and Real Estate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Scanlon.

REP. SCANLON (98TH):

Good afternoon, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Good afternoon, sir.

REP. SCANLON (98TH):

I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's  
favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question is acceptance of the Joint

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Health. And I just wanted to talk to folks about the fee. The fee is planning on remaining the same as it has been and that is in the budget. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Somers. Will you remark further on the legislation? Will you remark further on the legislation? If not, a Roll Call Vote has been requested. Senator Abrams, you did request a Roll Call vote?

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

I withdraw the request and ask that we move it to the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered. Mr. Clerk -- Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. For items for our Consent Calendar please.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. On Calendar Page 21, Calendar 380, Senate Bill -- House Bill 7313, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page

23, Calendar 401, House Bill 5683, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 23, Calendar 402, House Bill 6997, I'd like to move that item to Consent.

On Calendar Page 24, Calendar 409, House Bill 7282, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 25, Calendar 415, House Bill 6666, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 25, Calendar 416, House Bill 7243, I'd like to move that item to Consent.

On Calendar Page 30, Calendar 469, House Bill 7325, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 31, Calendar 480, House Bill 7361, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 33, Calendar 496, House Bill 7340, I'd like to move that item to Consent.

On Calendar Page 34, Calendar 499, House Bill 7064, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 35, Calendar 515, House Bill 7248, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar 37, Calendar 535, House Bill 7230, I'd like to move that item to Consent.

On Calendar Page 38, Calendar 538, House Bill 6346, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 41, Calendar 574, House Bill 7122, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 42, Calendar 575, House Bill 7125, I'd like to move that item to Consent.

On Calendar Page 42, Calendar 578, House Bill 7000, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 43, Calendar 582, House Bill 5575, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar 43, Calendar

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583, House Bill 7104, I'd like to move that item to Consent.

On Calendar Page 45, Calendar 592, House Bill 7394, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 45, Calendar 594, House Bill 6939, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 46, Calendar 600, House Bill 5181, I'd like to move that item to Consent.

On Calendar Page 47, Calendar 607, House Bill 6122, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 48, Calendar 608, House Bill 6747, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 48, Calendar 609, House Bill 6146, I'd like to move that item to Consent.

On Calendar Page 49, Calendar 616, House Bill 7286, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 49, Calendar 617, House Bill 6890, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 49, Calendar 619, House Bill 5213, I'd like to move that item to Consent.

On Calendar Page 50, Calendar 623, House Bill 7217, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 50, Calendar 626, House Bill 7244, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 52, Calendar 635, House Bill 7373, I'd like to move that item to Consent.

On Calendar Page 52, Calendar 637, House Bill 6942, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 53, Calendar 638, House Bill 5833, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 53, Calendar 640, House Bill 7215, I'd like to move that item to Consent.



On Calendar Page 53, Calendar 641, House Bill 7353, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 54, Calendar 645, House Bill 7299, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 55, Calendar 649, House Bill 7107, I'd like to move that item to Consent.

On Calendar Page 37, Calendar 536, House Bill 7190, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 67, Calendar 381, House Joint Resolution 57, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 56, Calendar 657, House Bill 6376, I'd like to move that item to Consent.

On Agenda 4, Calendar 692, House Bill 7192, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Agenda 4, Calendar 695, 7363, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 2, Calendar 76, Senate Bill 971, I'd like to move that item to Consent.

On Agenda 2, Calendar 696, House Bill 6088, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 26, Calendar 423, House Bill 6184, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 66, Calendar 686, House Joint Resolution 170, I'd like to move that item to Consent.

If the Clerk will now call the items on the Consent Calendar followed by a vote on the Consent Calendar. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

May I just say that was impressive, Senator Duff. [laughter] [Applause] And can I also say, I wrote all that down. I was not the Secretary of the State for nothing. [laughter] Mr. Clerk, would you --

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SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Hold on, Madam President? We need to add -- add one more please.

THE CHAIR:

Yes, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 514 -- I'm sorry, Calendar 514, House Bill 6588, I'd like to move that item to Consent, please.

THE CHAIR:

All of those items are so noted and --

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

One more, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

-- so ordered. Yes. We will -- 6588, House Bill 6588.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

All right. Madam President, if the Clerk can start reading the items on the Consent Calendar, please?

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk. You go, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Consent Calendar --

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar No. 3, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Consent Calendar No. 3, Page 21, Calendar 38 -- oh, House Bill 7269, House Bill 6088, House Bill 7192, House Bill 7363. Page 21, Calendar 380, House Bill 7313. Page 23, Calendar 401, House Bill 5683. Page 23, Calendar 402, House Bill 6997. Page 24, Calendar 409, House Bill 7282.

Page 25, Calendar 415, House Bill 6666. Page 25, Calendar 416, House Bill 7253. Page 26, Calendar 423, House Bill 6184. Page 30, Calendar 469, House Bill 7325. Page 31, Calendar 480, House Bill 7361. Page 33, Calendar 496, House Bill 7340. Page 34, Calendar 499, House Bill 7064. Page 35, Calendar 515, House Bill 7248. Page 37, Calendar 535, House Bill 7230. Page 37, Calendar 536, House Bill 790. Page 38, Calendar 538, House Bill 6346. Page 41, Calendar 574, House Bill 7122. Page 42, Calendar 575, House Bill 7125. Page 42, Calendar 578, House Bill 7000.

Page 43, Calendar 582, House Bill 5575. Page 43, Calendar 583, House Bill 7104. Page 45, Calendar 592, House Bill 7394. Page 45, Calendar 594, House Bill 6939. Page 46, Calendar 595, House Bill 6921. Page 46, Calendar 600, House Bill 5181. Page 47, Calendar 607, House Bill 6122.

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Page 48, Calendar 608, House Bill 6747. Page 48, Calendar 609, House Bill 6146. Page 49, Calendar 616, House Bill 7286. Page 49, Calendar 617, House Bill 6890. Page 49, Calendar 619, House Bill 5213. Page 50, Calendar 623, House Bill 7217. Page 51, Calendar 626, House Bill 7244.

Page 52, Calendar 635, House Bill 7373. Page 53 -- 52, Calendar 637, House Bill 6942. Page 53, Calendar 638, House Bill 5833. Page 53, Calendar 640, House Bill 7215. Page 53, Calendar 641, House Bill 7353.

Page 55, Calendar 649, House Bill 7107. Page 56, Calendar 657, House Bill 6376. Page 60, Calendar 677, House Bill 7194. Page 66, Calendar 686, House Joint Resolution 170. And Page 67, Calendar 381, House Joint Resolution 57.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I need to add three more items, please.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. On Calendar 111 -- I'm sorry, on Calendar -- House Bill 7152, I'd like to place that item on our Consent Calendar. And also

Madam President, have we called Senate Agenda No. 5?

THE CHAIR:

No.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Okay. Mr. Clerk, would you please call Senate Agenda No. 5?

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, Senate Agenda 5.

THE CHAIR:

Senate Agenda No. 5, dated Wednesday, June 5th, 2019.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I -- I move all items on Senate Agenda No. 5 dated Wednesday, June 5th, 2019, be acted upon as indicated and that the Agenda be incorporated by reference to the Senate journal and Senate transcripts, and be immediately placed on our Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So noted, so ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. For our Consent

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Calendar, Substitute for House Bill on Agenda No. 5, Senate 7297. I'd like to place that item on our Consent Calendar. And the second item is, House Bill 7258 on Agenda 5. I'd like to place that item on our Consent Calendar, please.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. The first item was House Bill 7152, Calendar 679, Page 60. Thank you, Madam President. Let's vote.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Thank you, sir. Mr. Clerk, 7152, 7297, 7258.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

7297, 7258, and House Bill 7152.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk kindly call the Roll. The machine will be opened on the Consent Calendar.

CLERK:

Hold on. Hold on a moment. Let me put it on -- I got to put these on the -- we'll put these on the Consent Calendar. On the Consent Calendar 72 -- Agenda No. 5, 7297, Agenda No. 5, 7258, and House Bill 7152. House Joint Resolution 7152.

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SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Senate -- Madam President? Madam President?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you. Calendar 514, House Bill 6588 on the Consent Calendar, please.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk. Thank you.

CLERK:

Calendar 514, House Bill 6588 on Consent.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Consent Calendar No. 3. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on Consent Calendar No. 3. Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate on Consent Calendar No. 3.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, please announce the tally.

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Consent Calendar No. 3.

Total number voting	36
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0
Absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar is adopted.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I think we have time for just one more Consent Calendar. [laughter]  
Thank you, Madam President. And with that, I move that we adjourn. I move that we adjourn, Sine Die.  
[Applause]

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff. [Gavel] [Gavel]  
SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I think that was an impressive Consent Calendar. And I want to thank everybody for their cooperation on that. Madam President, as we -- before we get down to the -- to the Governor's speech, I want to just take a moment to say thanks to -- to some folks here in the Chamber and outside the Chamber. If we could have order in the Chamber, please?

THE CHAIR:

[Gavel] [Gavel] [Gavel] [Gavel] [Gavel] Could



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figures that were provided brought us to children that turned 22 and then another figure that I gave was children at turned 23. So it went to 23, that 18 to 23.

REP. WILSON PHEANIOUS (53RD): But it doesn't include the group that, between the years that this Bill speaks to, right?

VANESSA DORANTES: From what I understand the calculations were based on the children that will be turning those ages between 18 and 23 by 2020.

REP. WILSON PHEANIOUS (53RD): Okay. All right.

REP. LINEHAN (103RD): Thank you very much and that actually is what I wanted to meet with you and talk about that if there is a possibility that we will not be serving that entire group of people because they may not be college bound. So we could talk about that and we will make an appointment with your office, that would be wonderful. Thank you. Are there any final questions?

Okay, that's it. Seeing none, thank you so much. We have Commissioner Bye followed by Senator Rotella. Welcome to the Committee on Children, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER BYE: Good afternoon. Good Afternoon Senator Abrams, Representative Linehan, Senator Kelly, Representative Green and Distinguished Members of the Committee on Children. I am Beth Bye, the Commissioner Designate of the Office of Early Childhood.

HB 5165

HB 5184

Our office advances a family-centered approach to support young children and their families. We work to provide a unified vision to support coordination and alignment among early childhood services.

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are taking seriously in saying this could happen, two percent, three percent, four percent, this five percent is like you are gonna lose this five percent if you don't get the fingerprint situation worked out and have background checks. So we are not testifying in support of doing it immediately because of some of the concerns. I think it just won't be done but still raising to this Committee that we've got to get some cross agency work to make this happen and I know that Governor Lamont is taking it very seriously as well and his office is aware of these challenges.

On House Bill 6184 AN ACT CONCERNING EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTIONS AT CERTAIN FACILITIES, the statement of purpose here identifies child care centers among the facilities that need to be focused on early intervention. My work in Early Childhood has shown me that these early identification with children with disabilities is extremely important and I know in my child care center I spent the month of September looking because if you didn't get the kid in the special ed system, sort of in the system cause it takes a couple of months by the time you get to PTC, if you wait until December it will be the end of the school year and the child won't get those needed services. So we think that this is really important.

We know the early years are critical. By age three 80 percent of a child's brain is developed and many factors influence the development of their brain including the relationships, experiences and the environment. Early intervention services have a profound effect on children's physical, social, emotional and cognitive development. Our office and our providers see the impact firsthand that early

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intervention has on children and families. We are home to several early intervention and prevention services including Birth to Three, Home Visiting, Child Development Infoline, Help Me Grow and through the Child Development Infoline parents can access the Ages in Stages questionnaire which is a family friendly tool to help them track their child's development. If they have a concern Child Development Infoline connects them with the services. Our office has discussed this Bill with Representative Rochelle the introducer and we are happy to work with her but to clarify the intent and refine the language.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH): Hello Commissioner. I just wanted to say how happy I am to see you sitting there and I know what a wonderful job you'll do for the Children of our State. So thank you very much and thank you for your thoughtful testimony.

COMMISSIONER BYE: Thank you.

REP. LINEHAN (103RD): I echo those sentiments. Thank you very much it is really great to see you here and I can say that when we heard that you were up for the gig, we were all very excited because we know that this is where you are and it is perfect for you and we really look forward to working with you on this Committee. Are there any questions from Committee members? Representative Boyd.

REP. BOYD (50TH): Hello and congratulations again on your appointment. You know, full disclosure, you know, I consider myself a camp guy. I've been, you know, in resident camps for 20 years. I've been a camp director, at a Connecticut licensed camp for

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trying to recall off the top of my head if that was an administrative recommendation or if it going to be proposed. There will be, my understanding, there will be a Bill that emanates from the JJPOC recommendations that will contain various recommendations that the body voted on. I can't recall off the top of my head if the recommendation adopted by that body for the agencies to act on, the intention is to have that pushed into Statute. I can find that out for you though.

SENATOR MOORE (22ND): Thank you for your testimony. I think there are no other questions. Now I will ask someone from the public Heather Teichman.

HEATHER TEICHMAN: Thank you. I would just like to thank the members of the Committee for the opportunity to testify today in favor of HB 6184 AN ACT CONCERNING EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTIONS AT CERTAIN FACILITIES. I also want to thank Representative Rochelle for proposing the Bill and supporting early intervention. My name is Heather Teichman, I am a licensed behavioral analyst and CEO of the Connecticut Association for Behavioral Analysis which is referred to as CTABA. I am also the State Director of Beacon Services of Connecticut which is an organization that provides behavioral analysis services to individuals with autism.

I have submitted written testimony on behalf of CTABA but today I would like to speak to my own experiences as a practitioner. I have worked with children with autism and other developmental disabilities for almost 20 years across three states and in multiple setting including public and private schools, hospitals, daycares and in homes. As we heard Commissioner Bye testify earlier research shows that early intervention is critical for

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helping children with developmental delays to reach optimal long-term outcomes families every day.

The services that we provide can help children to learn necessary self-care skills, to be able to communicate their wants and needs and to build relationships within their families and communities. I have been lucky enough to be present in my work at times when children have said their first words, they have had their first playdate with friends or that they have been able to go out to eat or see a movie with their family for the first time and these types of events can also be taken for granted but for the families that I work with they are truly momentous occasions. Some areas that I believe are particularly in need of support are increasing education and awareness of early signs of autism and developmental disabilities among medical and childcare professionals to aid in early identification and connection to services rather than adopting a wait and see approach and hoping that children will catch up or grow out of it on their own.

I also think it is important to connect families with high quality interventions that have been supported through research to make sure that funds, time and energy are allocated to treatments that have been proven to be effective. And finally there is a need to increase equal access to high quality effective early intervention to all families regardless of income level, cultural background, race, language spoken in the home and geographic location. CTABA is ready and willing to work with the Committee as you move forward with this legislation and I am happy to answer any questions

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you may have and thank you again for this opportunity.

SENATOR MOORE (22ND): Thank you, Heather. Appreciate it. I am going to go a little bit out of order because I jumped over someone, Christopher Marinelli.

CHRISTOPHER MARINELLI: Good afternoon, it is a pleasure to be here. Thank you for having me, Representatives. I am here to speak on behalf of House Bill 5682. So my names is Christopher Marinelli. I currently work at Central Connecticut State University. I run the CCSU Scholars Program which I helped cofound. We are funded by the University President with the goal of supporting students who have grown up in foster care and adoption and attending college. So I am also a Central Alum. I attended Johns Hopkins University, received a two-year teaching certification from there. I taught in Hartford Public Schools for a year and probably most relevant to this is I spent about seven or eight years in foster care and was adopted when I was 14.

So before my job at Central and a little bit on this Bill, I just want to take you back to my experiences in foster care, what it was like with my biological family. I grew up with my mom and never met my dad. My mother's, my biological mother's boyfriend at the time, my sisters father. My biological mother's boyfriend was in and out of jail for most of my childhood so I learned how to do my math flashcards in the visiting room of a prison. Something more serious is I had a babysitter once I really cared about and my last memory of her is she overdosed and I saw her in a bathtub of ice and my mom told me she had smoked too many cigarettes. So I ended up by

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we were proposing sidewalks on Main Street of all places, oh my gosh. The neighbors that it was going to decrease their values, but my goal going forward I was thinking if we could connect all the parks by sidewalks and the schools and downtown kids walking. Well sure enough we now have walk to school days, they are starting to do this and with this legislation 608 parents will be so much more at ease and will be defended because police officer now say, wait a minute, they are having walk to school, this is clearly appropriate and so this protects communities and individuals to go forward with this kind of a concept. So I got goosebumps, it's time for me to go.

REP. LINEHAN (103RD): Thank you very much. Just before you leave, Representative I just want to say thank you very much for coming up here and being a part of this and I meant it when I said when the lights are turned off and you made your joke, you make me guffaw more than most people, so thank you very much. And I just want to point something out, there is also a Bill in front of the Education Committee the number escapes me, but it is a Bill directed towards unstructured playtime, thank you, unstructured playtime in schools, something I think you might find very interesting and you have such compelling testimony that you might want to consider that and the Public Hearing will be coming up shortly.

REP. O'DEA (125TH): Thank you very much, ladies.

REP. LINEHAN (103RD): Representative Rochelle.

REP. ROCHELLE (104TH): Senator Abrams,  
Representative Linehan and Members of the Committee  
on Children. Thank you for having me today. I am

HB 6184



## PUBLIC HEARING

here to speak in favor of House Bill 6184. This is a Bill that was conceptualized out of requests from my constituents and neighboring communities specifically have to do with early interventions.

I was at a Council of Board of Education meeting for my region and there was consensus amongst not just the members of Boards of Education but superintendents and teachers that there is not enough early intervention happening before they get the children in kindergarten and Pre-K. And there is just multiple studies that show that when children have interventions at an earlier age it produces better results for the children, for the families, for you know, whether or not they are going to need additional services later in life. So on a very basic level this will truly change lives. It will also from a financial level will save the State a lot of money because the earlier we can provide corrective support the better it will be for these families and the less expense it will be later on to provide services.

There are a couple of different things that we identified as stuff that we can take that would be helpful without creating a large fiscal note which we are all concerned about right now. So looking at the daycare level which is where children are most often when they are not with their parents, parents are working, kids are in daycare during the day. These folks are on the frontline. They're able to identify first because they see the day-to-day habits, activities. We can train them in developmental stages. So a couple of things we can be doing to create this filtering process.

The first is simply to have signage in daycare whether it is home daycare or a daycare center that

## PUBLIC HEARING

does a couple of things: One, it provides the numbers for services for programs in case you suspect that your child needs an evaluation and the second is to have the ages and stages poster put on the wall. Now we have CPS checks required this is another way to help save a life and so I think having these ages and stages posters and contact numbers is a first step to make sure that in daily interaction parents are seeing these signs and know this is something that is normalized that we should be looking at.

The second thing that we've identified is have daycare workers take a one hour course on-line and after the course was given, you know, some questions they need to answer to make sure they have retained a basic level of knowledge. Because it would be an on-line course would have a very small, you know, logistics to cover. We wouldn't be requiring staffing and training in an actual physical place and we can even, you know, as far as funding, you know, we can do this in a couple of ways. We could have like a ten dollar fee for the course or we can maybe roll this into the actual licensing cost. But essentially catching folks that are opening daycares and then renewal time saying we need you to have this course to make sure that you have the basics down so you can make those referrals and have those conversations in an appropriate way with parents.

So that is really what this Bill is about. There's a couple different folks in the ABA community that submitted testimony as well to extrapolate on the different studies that show that early intervention is key and also to discuss the impact it has later in life.

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REP. LINEHAN (103RD): Thank you very much for that testimony and for bringing this to our attention. I think that you've done a really great job of looking at the needs of our kids and how to implement it in a very difficult budget year. And I appreciate you taking that into account because a lot of times there are a million things we want to do for kids and unfortunately we have these tight fiscal constraints on so I do appreciate that. One thing I would like to say as Chair, you know, we have a wonderful resource here on the Committee and that would be our Ranking Member Representative Green and she is not here now because she is going to be out for another week but actually Monday. She will be back this coming week. I would like for you to reach out to her because she owns quite a few childcare centers and she has been doing this for a longtime out of a love of doing this and the love of kids. She would be a really great resource on how to make this the best it could possibly be. I think she would be very helpful in having you shape that. So I appreciate you bringing this to us and are there any other questions from the Committee?

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH): I would just say, Representative that Commissioner Bye was here earlier from Early Childhood and she said that she is very much interested, her office is very much interested in working with you on this, so she said you had already been in contact and that is great. I have one question, does that on-line course already exist or does that need to be created?

REP. ROCHELLE (104TH): It does not currently exist but I have already been in touch with some of our State Commissions about this as they were the ones that pointed out ages and stages as an efficient way

## PUBLIC HEARING

to start crafting this. So they don't think, they already have all the information to pull a video together.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH): Excellent, thank you so much.

REP. ROCHELLE (104TH): Thank you, Ladies.

REP. LINEHAN (103RD): Just one second. Can you speak to that please Representative Comey.

REP. COMEY (102ND): Sure, so my background is as you may know, Early Childhood and I do a lot of training for teachers and preschool workers and we usually do daycare workers rather and they are all free because we know the limited time as well as limited availability of funds. I know that we have several great resources that we've brought in as an agency such as the ECCP which is down in between sort of you and I on the shoreline there and they come in and they talk about just the ages and stages development and things like that but also about referral processes and things like that. so there are agencies that we already have here that are already fully funded and that don't cost the preschools and daycare any money anyway to bring them in, so I think it is just a matter of bringing theme to the attention of some of the schools and the programs. So that can be done quite well I think, so thank you.

REP. ROCHELLE (104TH): Thank you. I would like to hear more about that and see what we can do insure that especially in home daycares in particular have those varying degrees. I know with the centers there's a lot more interest in these things but making sure that there is a uniformed process I'm hoping for to make sure that that we are not letting

## PUBLIC HEARING

kids fall through the cracks when we could be doing something to help them.

REP. COMEY (102ND): Right, yea we are siloed sometimes all, there is a lot of training for the family care programs and yes, absolutely. They are more than willing to going to them, wonderful folks who are taking care of kids 24/7.

REP. ROCHELLE (104TH): Thank you, I'd love to get more information so that I can get in touch with them.

REP. COMEY (102ND): I'm willing to help out in anyway. Thank you.

REP. LINEHAN (103RD): Thank you very much and as we say so often on the Committee on Children it takes a village. So thank you for that. Any questions from the Committee? Seeing none, thank you very much. Senator Haskell along with Kevin Smith please.

SENATOR HASKELL (26TH): Good afternoon, Madam Chair, thank you so much for hearing so much about the free-range kids Bill today. I am just speaking briefly to add my support for this wonderful legislation. I have the honor of representing Wilton in the State Senate and I am so thrilled by the activism and energy that this issue has garnered in my community. I am here today essentially just to introduce somebody who is so well-respected as an education leader in my community and that is Kevin Smith, Superintendent of the Wilton Schools. Every year Wilton Schools, which are some of the best in the State, graduate students who are independent and ready to thrive in the 21st Century workforce. I believe what this legislation aims to do is students enter the school system already prepared to tackle the challenges of the 21st Century and become

SB 806



Ned Lamont  
Governor  
Susan Bysiewicz  
Lt. Governor

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



Connecticut Office of  
Early Childhood

Beth Bye  
Commissioner Designate

### Testimony of Beth Bye, Commissioner-Designate Office of Early Childhood Before the Committee on Children

**Re: HB 5165 – An Act Requiring Background Checks on Overnight Camp Counselors**  
**HB 6184 – An Act Concerning Early Childhood Interventions at Certain Facilities**  
**Thursday, February 14, 2019**

Good afternoon Senator Abrams, Representative Linehan, Senator Kelly, Representative Green, and distinguished members of the Committee on Children. I am Beth Bye, Commissioner-Designate of the Office of Early Childhood (OEC).

The Connecticut Office of Early Childhood advances a family-centered approach to support young children and their families. OEC provides a unified vision to support coordination and alignment between early childhood services. Through our core programs, we support infant and toddler care, preschool, home visiting, child care and youth camp licensing, home visiting, and early intervention to address developmental delays. Through this integrated strategy and collaboration with other state agencies and early childhood partners, OEC works to advance better coordinated, more cost-effective services that yield measurable results for Connecticut's children and families.

I am here today to testify on two bills:

- HB 5165 – An Act Requiring Background Checks on Overnight Camp Counselors
- HB 6184 – An Act Concerning Early Childhood Interventions at Certain Facilities

**HB 5165 – An Act Requiring Background Checks on Overnight Camp Counselors** has a well-intended goal: to ensure that camp counselors have submitted and received clearance of a criminal background check. While well-intended, under Connecticut's current background check system, this goal is unachievable.

We take background checks very seriously for child safety and to meet federal requirements. The Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Reauthorization requires that staff in licensed child care centers, child care homes, group child care homes, and youth camps submit to a comprehensive background check, which includes a finger-based criminal records check. In addition, CCDF requires that background checks are processed within 45 days.

Currently however, it takes three to four months for the OEC to receive the results of fingerprint-based criminal records checks after processing through the State Police. For youth camps, where

staff are hired in the late spring, the background checks would not be finalized until late summer or early fall, after the camp season has ended.

The Office of Early Childhood is collaborating with the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection to resolve this issue. This is a systemic concern, which extends beyond child care and youth camps to many other entities who must submit to background checks. For the Office of Early Childhood, our concern is two-fold:

- 1) We fully support ensuring the health and safety of children through comprehensive fingerprint-based background checks and are committed to make this happen.
- 2) Our agency must meet the CCDF background check requirements by October of 2019; if the requirement is not met, Connecticut faces the real risk of losing at least 5 percent of its \$67 million federal allocation.

We support the goal of **HB 6184 – An Act Concerning Early Childhood Interventions at Certain Facilities**. The statement of purpose identifies child care centers as among the facilities. As we all know, the early years of a child's life are the most critical – by age 3, 80 percent of a child's brain is developed. Many factors influence the development of a child's brain, including relationships, experiences, and the environment. Early intervention services can have a profound positive impact on a young child's healthy physical and social emotional development.

The Office of Early Childhood is home to several early childhood intervention and prevention services, including Birth to Three, Home Visiting, Child Development Infoline, and Help Me Grow. Through the Child Development Infoline, parents can access the Ages & Stages Questionnaire, which is a family-friendly tool to help a parent track their child's development and identify potential developmental concerns. If a concern is identified, Child Development Infoline connects and links families to appropriate existing services.

The OEC has discussed this proposed concept with Rep. Kara Rochelle, the introducer of the bill. We are willing to work with proponents of the bill to clarify the intent and refine the language.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am happy to answer your questions now and/or at a later date, as well as continue to work together to better serve our families with young children.



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APPLIED BEHAVIORAL STRATEGIES LLC

2/13/2019

RE: In Support of HB 6184 AN ACT CONCERNING EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTIONS AT CERTAIN FACILITIES.

Dear Senator Abrams and Representative Linehan, and members of the Committee on Children,

I reside in Woodbridge, Connecticut. I hold a doctorate in Educational Psychology with an emphasis in Early Childhood Special Education. As part of my training at both Vanderbilt University and the University of Minnesota, I studied the plethora of research on the importance of early intervention. As part of my early career in the Colleges of Education at the University of Nevada, Reno and the University of Texas at Austin, I trained early childhood special education teachers to implement high quality interventions to impact the lives of children on their case loads. I also conducted research to better understand which interventions produced outcomes for children. Now, as the Owner and Executive Director of an agency who provides early and intensive intervention to children, we see first-hand how our interventions impact the immediate and long term outcomes of children and their families.

I urge you all to support this bill and to devote funding to improve outcomes for children. At a minimum, we must improve our ability to identify AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE when a child needs intervention. This will only be accomplished by training early childhood teachers as well as pediatricians and other health care providers to screen and assess and refer for intervention rather than to watch and wait. However, we must also work to ensure that every early educator is empowered to implement the most effective interventions for children so the children may reap the benefits and long term effects of intervention.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for additional support on this matter.

Respectfully,

*Melissa L. Olive*

Melissa Olive, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA  
Executive Director



2/14/1

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Testimony of the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Association for Behavior

Analysis

In Support of HB 6184 AN ACT CONCERNING EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTIONS AT CERTAIN  
FACILITIES.

Committee on Children Public

Hearing

Dear Senator Abrams and Representative Linehan, and members of the Committee on  
Children,

The Connecticut Association for Behavior Analysis (CTABA) is a professional organization that seeks to assist in the development and advancement of the field of behavior analysis within the state of Connecticut through research, education, and dissemination of information. CTABA represents Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA) in Connecticut, with a current membership of over 600 persons. CTABA is an affiliated chapter of the Association of Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) and the Association of Professional Behavior Analysts (APBA). CTABA is honored to represent the field of applied behavior analysis (ABA) in Connecticut.

The Board of Directors is writing to support Representative Rochelle's bill to improve early interventions for children and thank you for hearing testimony on this important issue.

Numerous studies have been completed to support the need for early intervention for young children with positive outcomes demonstrated in all areas of development. For example, Hart and Risley (1994) conducted a landmark study signaling just how critical early intervention is when compared to no intervention. Additionally, the work of the Perry Preschool Project demonstrated the importance of and long term outcomes from high quality preschool.

Diamond, Justice, Siegler, & Snyder (2013) noted in their research summary that there are critical links between certain classroom features (e.g., quality of teacher-child interactions and nature of teachers' feedback to children) and positive children's outcomes. The authors also noted how tiered interventions are effective in early childhood at remediating delays in other areas of development. And finally, they summarized critical results indicating that professional development leads to better outcomes for children. For example, classroom instruction can be improved by providing professional development to teachers including learning to use educational technology during classroom instruction. Two other seminal studies on the importance of early intervention include the Abecedarian Project (e.g., Campbell & Ramey, 1994) and The High Scope Curricular Studies (Schweinhart & Weikart, 1997).

Of utmost importance is the need for early and intensive intervention for children with autism at the earliest ages possible using Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA; Eikeseth et al, 2007; Eldevick et al, 2009). The research in this area has shown that not only does ABA result in positive outcomes but that in some cases, children with autism may go on to become indistinguishable from their peers (Fein, et. al., 2013; Fein et. al., 2017; Lovaas, 1987). In order to intervene early, children need to be identified early. As such, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that all 18- and 24-month-olds be screened for ASD during regular health visits. Moreover, intervening early will also reduce the later costs of providing care (e.g., Chasson, Harris, & Neely, 2007). One cost analysis related to delivering ABA early for children with autism noted that estimates for cost savings ranged from \$187,000 to \$203,000 per child for ages 3 to 22 years, and from \$656,000 to \$1,082,000 per child for ages 3 to 55 years (Jacobson, Mulick, and Green, 1998).

Given all this research, we are asking that the committee support this bill so as to improve outcomes for children in CT.

We ask that the Committee provide funding to:

1. Identify children who need intervention as soon as possible. This may include providing training to staff at child care centers to recognize early signs including the red flags of autism and then refer to community agencies designed to assess children for delays.
2. Train teachers in early childhood settings to implement effective, high quality instructional strategies such as tiered interventions.
3. Train physicians to recognize the red flags of autism and other conditions so that children will have early access to effective interventions. Waiting and watching is not effective.

We hope the committee looks favorably on this important legislation to improve outcomes for young children. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have or if volunteers are needed to participate in committees to guide this legislation further.

Sincerely,

*Michael Weinberg*

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\_ Michael Weinberg, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA

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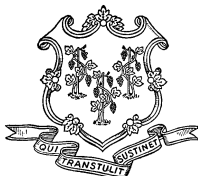
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**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
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ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

**VICE CHAIR**  
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**MEMBER**  
 COMMERCE COMMITTEE  
 HIGHER EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT  
 COMMITTEE

Good morning to the Chairs of the Children's Committee- Rep. Linehan and Senator Abrams-, ranking members Rep. Comey and Senator Moore, Vice Chairs, and all members of the committee.

My name is Kara Rochelle and I'm a state representative for the 104<sup>th</sup> House district. It's my pleasure to be here today to testify in favor of H.B. 6184, which aims to improve early childhood interventions at facilities that serve young children.

I'm here to speak on this bill which stems from conversation at a regional meeting of the CT Association Board of Education, in which Board of Ed. members and their staff came to a consensus, in conversation, that there needs to be a stronger effort to create pathways to early intervention. Shortly thereafter, I spoke with an ABA specialist who indicated that there were room for improvements at identifying needs for early intervention in the day care setting.

While we certainly recognize that daycare workers do not require the same training as pre-k teachers, there are a few basic steps that we can take to better equip workers in these settings to aid in the process of getting children connected to services they may need for better lifelong outcomes. In the spirit of pragmatism and being mindful of the potential fiscal note, we concluded that there are two easy steps to be taken to train staff and to better be able to connect parents and children to services.

The first initiative is requiring early childhood day care centers and in-home child care programs have proper signage listing the numbers to connect parents to services, and an ages and stages chart which indicates milestones children should be reaching at various ages.

The second measure would be to require those working in daycare settings to complete a one-hour online training and brief quiz as a requirement for licensing or licensing renewal for employment and contact with children. As those in a daycare setting spend the most time with children, they are the front line of learning the child's abilities and possible needs for additional support. You will hear from experts today that will outline the multiple studies that indicate early intervention is essential. Additionally, you will hear that early intervention saves children, their families, and the state hundreds of thousands of dollars because helping children to adapt early is

far more effective than supports in later years. I ask you all to support bill 6184 so that we can support our most vulnerable while we have the biggest opportunity to positively affect their lives.