



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



Connecticut Office of
Early Childhood

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Myra Jones-Taylor, Ph.D.
Commissioner

**Testimony of Myra Jones-Taylor, Ph.D., Commissioner
Office of Early Childhood
Before the Public Safety and Security Committee
H.B. 6910 – An Act Concerning Notification by Law Enforcement Agencies
to Day Care Centers
Tuesday, March 3, 2015**

The Office of Early Childhood submits this testimony regarding H.B. 6910 – An Act Concerning Notification by Law Enforcement Agencies to Day Care Centers.

H.B. 6910 would require licensed child care centers, group child care homes, and family child care homes, to provide written contact information for the licensed child care setting to the local police department or state police troop having jurisdiction where the child care setting is located. The bill would require the local police department or state police troop to notify the child care center, group child care home, or family child care home of certain emergency situations that may endanger the safety and welfare of the children in the child care setting.

The Office of Early Childhood fully supports emergency preparedness efforts and this bill suggests the need to develop systems to determine how, and under what circumstances, child care settings should and could be notified of situations that impact the health and safety of young children. There has been significant discussion about this issue in the past few years, and there is a further need to explore feasible strategies that meet the intent of this legislation. The Office of Early Childhood is an active member of the DEMHS-convened Child Emergency Preparedness Committee, which is charged with making recommendations in regard to development and implementation of statewide strategic planning and guidance related to children in emergencies.

Should this bill move forward as written, I suggest two technical changes. Reference to “person” in Section 1 should be replaced with “group of persons, association, organization, corporation, institution or agency.” In addition, language should require that “The licensee shall keep on file at the child care center written verification of compliance with this subsection.”

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

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