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Contact: Kevin Flood
(860) 240-0078
Kevin.Flood@cga.ct.gov

Experts to discuss how to ‘Stand Up to Bullying!’

More than 250 people expected to attend first-of-its-kind forum sponsored by the Office of the Child Advocate, the Commission on Children, and other partners

Bullying has been around for as long as there have been children, but Connecticut parents are increasingly concerned about it. A 2005 survey revealed that more than one-third of high school girls in the state and nearly one-third of the boys had been bullied on school property in the previous year. (See the accompanying fact sheet for more data.)

That’s why two state agencies and their partners have organized ‘Stand Up to Bullying!’, a forum to learn the causes of bullying and explore strategies for making Connecticut safe for learning.

The forum, sponsored by Office of the Child Advocate, the Commission on Children, and other partners, begins at **9 a.m. on Monday, October 22, in Room 2-C of the Legislative Office Building in Hartford.**

The keynote address will be given by Ken Rigby, Ph.D., an internationally acclaimed expert on bullying prevention. Dr. Rigby, an adjunct research professor and consultant based at the University of South Australia, is the author of "Bullying in Schools and What to Do About It," a book regarded as a standard text on the subject. He will also be the featured keynote speaker at the November 2007 conference of the International Bullying Prevention Association.

Following Rigby’s address, a panel of other experts, mostly from Connecticut, will discuss various aspects of bullying, including cyberbullying, children with special needs, immigrant children, GLBTQI issues, working the legal system to prevent bullying, and weight bias and body image.

More than 250 concerned adults have registered to attend the event, including parents, school administrators, teachers, police officers, and social workers. Registration for seating in the main room has closed, but overflow seating in two adjoining hearing rooms remains available. The public may visit the Commission on Children’s website, at www.cga.ct.gov/coc to reserve a seat.

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