



*All New Haven children, birth through 8 are healthy, safe, thriving in nurturing families
and prepared to be successful lifelong learners.*

March 3, 2015

Dear Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee,

I am Gail Ford, the Coordinator of the New Haven Early Childhood Council. The NHECC serves New Haven families as the School Readiness Council and as a citywide collaborative that focuses its work on children ages 0 to 8 and their families. The NHECC is a William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund Discovery Community. I appreciate the opportunity submit this testimony to the Committee.

I am submitting this testimony in support of **HB 6711- AN ACT COMMUNICATION BETWEEN POLICE AND CHILD DAY CARE CENTERS**. New Haven Public Schools are routinely notified when there are circumstances in their areas when there is police activity in their areas in order to ensure the safety of the children and the teachers. It is important that all child care centers, and family child care homes are notified as well to ensure the safety of these children, their families and the providers.

I was visiting a New Haven Public School this past fall when the principals was called by the police to report a homicide that took place a few blocks away from the school. The principal of the school communicated to me that there were a number of family child cares in the immediate area of the school, where some of her students go for after school care, where children are cared for each day in the area that the police were searching. In order to ensure the safety of our youngest children all child day care centers and family child cares, as well as schools, must be made aware when children's safety, families' safety and teachers' safety could be compromised.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gail Ford, Council Coordinator