



**John L. Cattelan**  
**Executive Director, Connecticut Alliance of YMCAs**  
**H.B. 6511, AN ACT REQUIRING BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR YOUTH**  
**SPORTS COACHES, TRAINERS AND INSTRUCTORS**  
**The Committee on Children**  
**March 2, 2021**

Representative Linehan, Senator Anwar and members of the Committee on Children, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

My name is John Cattelan and I am here today on behalf of the Connecticut Alliance of YMCAs. The Alliance represents 21 YMCAs across the state of Connecticut. While we support the concept of H.B. 6511, An Act Requiring Background Checks for Youth Sports Coaches, trainers and Instructors, we do have some concerns.

According to the feedback I have received from many of YMCA child care centers, it is currently taking up to eight weeks to conduct a background check, which includes fingerprinting. First of all, if a background check is completed in eight weeks, the season is already completed for the coaches we hire. Therefore, the results would be received once a sports season has already concluded.

All of the coaches we hire undergo a background check with the exception of the fingerprinting. This includes a search of the national and state sex offender lists and a criminal conviction search.

The Connecticut Alliance of YMCAs is supportive of H.B. 6511 but we respectively request the fingerprinting requirement be removed.