



State of Connecticut

SENATE

STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

SENATOR ART LINARES
THIRTY-THIRD DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
SUITE 3400
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591
Capitol: (800) 842-1421
E-mail: Art.Linares@cga.ct.gov
Website: www.SenatorLinares.com

MINORITY CAUCUS WHIP

RANKING MEMBER
BANKS COMMITTEE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

MEMBER
COMMERCE COMMITTEE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Sen. Dante Bartolomeo
Co-Chair, Committee on Children
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Rep. Diana Urban
Co-Chair, Committee on Children
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

August 1, 2014

Dear Senator Bartolomeo and Representative Urban:

As Ranking Member of the Committee on Children, I am writing to you to request a public hearing to review the results of the Child Fatality Review Report, released by the Office of the Child Advocate yesterday.

The report, as you know, identified 24 infant and toddler deaths among families with DCF involvement. The review also discussed recommendations to prevent future deaths. This included a recommendation to hold an annual public hearing on child fatalities, including a focused discussion on infant-toddler deaths.

I agree with this recommendation and feel strongly that a public hearing is needed to improve transparency and open the dialogue between DCF, lawmakers, child advocates and community members.

Everyone needs to have a seat at the table when it comes to the safety of children. Legislators need to understand the short and long term needs of caseworkers and child advocacy officials.

Caseworkers need to understand what policies would most benefit families. A hearing would allow us to better understand what is being done and what still needs to be done to put an end to these serious and devastating events.

I thank you both for considering my request. I agree with the report's recommendation to hold a public hearing on child fatalities and I appreciate you considering this recommendation as well.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Art Linares', with a stylized flourish at the end.

State Senator Art Linares (R-33)
Ranking Member of the Connecticut General Assembly's Committee on Children