

Memorandum

To: Scott Cochran
Michelle Piccerillo
Kristin Mabrouk

Justin Carbonella
Erica Bromley
Kristina Baldwin

Barbara Lockhart
Mary Seidner
Kathryn Dube

From: Jay Aronson

Date: March 17, 2023

Re: Legislative Update

This Week at The Capitol:

This week began with the meeting of the Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee work session. DCF Commissioner Durantes and her team answered questions previously posed to her by the Subcommittee during her budget presentation the week before. There was no mention of Youth Service Bureaus during the two hours allowed for the meeting, however, it will continue this coming Monday morning so the Commissioner can finish answering the Subcommittees questions.

On Wednesday, the Judiciary Committee held a public hearing on two important bills for YSBs. HB 6888, AAC Juvenile Justice, (<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2023/TOB/H/PDF/2023HB-06888-R00-HB.PDF>) which, for the most part, CYSA favors with a requested addition of language giving CYSA a seat on the “Implementation Team” in Section 2 of the bill, and HB 6889, AAC Juvenile Matters (<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2023/TOB/H/PDF/2023HB-06889-R00-HB.PDF>) which CYSA wholly opposes.

Testifying on behalf of CYSA were Erica B., Scott C. and Justin C. All were outstanding; however, I must recognize Erica for giving a master class in how to deal with a Legislator intent on trying to discredit her testimony. This Legislator clearly did not know who he was dealing with, or the knowledge Erica possesses on Juvenile Justice issues. As the Legislator posed question after question, Erica calmly and respectfully answered him, clearly flustering him when his line of questions missed their mark. If you were unable to watch it live, I have included the link here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iy9WWm2XJik> . Erica’s testimony begins at the 4:05:15(ish) time stamp.

On Thursday, Rep. Walker’s bill, HB 6902, AAC Youth Service Bureaus and Establishment of a Juvenile Diversionary Program (<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2023/TOB/H/PDF/2023HB-06902-R00-HB.PDF>) was posted and will have a public hearing on March 28th in the Appropriations Committee. I have scheduled a meeting for Monday afternoon for CYSA to meet with Rep. Walker to go through the bill prior to the hearing.

As always, please contact me at your convenience should you have any questions or concerns about these or any other Legislative matters. Also, please share this information with your members as you see fit.