

July 19, 2007

The Hon. Karen E. Spilka, Chairwoman  
Senate Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities  
The State House, Rm. 511C  
Boston, MA 02133

The Hon. Cheryl A. Coakley-Rivera  
House Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities  
The State House, Rm. 146  
Boston, MA 02133

**Re: S. 66, “An Act Relative to the Reporting of Child Abuse to Local Law Enforcement Officials**

Dear Chairwoman Spilka and Chairwoman Coakley-Rivera:

I write in support of S. 66, “An Act Relative to the Reporting of Child Abuse to Local Law Enforcement Officials,” and respectfully request that the Committee advance this legislation with a favorable report.

S. 66 will amend M.G.L. Ch. 112, Section 12a by inserting language that would require physicians that care for children they suspect to have been victims of child abuse to local law enforcement, in addition to the social welfare agencies to whom they are currently required to report. This would provide local police departments advanced notice of suspected abuse, and enable them to move quickly to prevent further abuse. Most importantly, this legislation provides children—one of our most vulnerable populations—additional protections from those who would do them harm.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this request. As always, should you have questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Gale D. Candaras  
State Senator