

From: jenn@vtchildrensalliance.org <jenn@vtchildrensalliance.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2015 1:21 PM
To: Maxine Grad
Cc: Wisdom, Leslie; Cahill, David; Willem Jewett; Treadwell, John; Auburn WaterSong; Pahl, Marshall
Subject: Re: S.9: Cruelty to Child Language

Hello All-

Representative Grad, I wanted to be sure to weigh in with our support for the language as offered by John Treadwell. Unfortunately, we do not support the language the Network is proposing to add to the Cruelty to a Child provision. As we have said, the current version of this statute already presents significant hurdles to prosecutors and the directors of the Child Advocacy Centers/SIUs have expressed serious concerns about making it more difficult to hold people accountable for their intentional acts toward a child. Adding in the proposed language would add another element to the crime which would need to be proven beyond a reasonable doubt. We strongly agree with David Cahill's analysis and would urge the Committee to be cautious before amending existing law in this area.

Thank you for your all of your work on this! Jenn

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