

Willem,

We would suggest three measures to reinforce the child abuse and neglect reporting statute—

1. Require that candidates for teacher and administrator licensure be required to sign an agreement as part of the licensing process that they “understand my responsibilities as a mandated reporter of child abuse and neglect.”
2. Add to required training for school board chairs and superintendents Title 16 561(b) a subsection (7) which would read “child abuse and neglect reporting responsibilities of mandated reporters”
3. Alter the proposed wording of S9, draft no. 1.32 lines 6-10 as follows:

“...counselor or member of the clergy who ***reasonably suspects*** that any child has been abused or neglected shall report in accordance with the provisions of section 4914 of this title within 24 hours of the time information regarding the suspected abuse or neglect was first received or observed.”

Let me know if you want to discuss further. We are happy to come in any time today, Friday or Tuesday to testify further about this issue.

Steve

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