

State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Co-Chairs
Senator Danté Bartolomeo
Representative Diana Urban



State Capitol, Room 011
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1591
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COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

July 10, 2015

Senator Martin Looney
President Pro Tempore of the Senate
Legislative Office Building, Room 3300
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Representative Brendan Sharkey
Speaker of the House of Representatives
LOB, Room 4100
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Dear Senator Looney and Representative Sharkey,

Special Act 15-10, An Act Establishing a Task Force to Study the State-Wide Response to Family Violence, was one of the priorities of the Committee on Children during the 2015 legislative session. We are very pleased that the creation of this task force will prompt an in-depth examination of state-wide policies and procedures affecting minors exposed to family violence. The communication that takes place, within and between state and municipal entities charged with responding to domestic violence cases has been a concern of the Committee on Children for some time.

In fact, during an October 2, 2014, informational forum on child fatalities we asked the Office of the Child Advocate to investigate and provide our committee with a report detailing the August 2014 murder of one-year-old Zaniyah Calloway. In particular the Committee was seeking confirmation as to whether the multiple system concerns alluded to in the media and investigation were a result of legislative policy or state and municipal procedure. Now, less than a year later, another Connecticut community faces the aftermath of a chillingly similar tragedy. On July 5, 2015, seven-month-old Aaden Moreno was allegedly murdered by his father. Again, multiple systems were involved in a case that began with intimate partner violence and ended in the murder of a child.

As we await the appointment of task force chairpersons, we write to you to respectfully request that this task force consider the cases of Zaniyah Calloway and Aaden Moreno when building a new state-wide model policy as directed by Special Act 15-10. These tragedies exemplify the types of situations that drove the need for this task force and we believe careful review of the case reports will reveal pathways to preventing similar occurrences in the future.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Senator Danté Bartolomeo
Co-Chair
Committee on Children



Representative Diana Urban
Co-Chair
Committee on Children