

Committee on Children

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1216

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEMS.

Vote Date: 2/25/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/6/2025

File No.: 37

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CO-SPONSORS OF BILL:

Senator Saud Anwar

SPONSORS OF BILL:

Committee on Children

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would authorize the use of funds for schools and childcare centers to add security infrastructure or security communication devices. This would also include the cost of training staff and personnel in how to use this security infrastructure. These schools may apply for a grant to cover the costs of this infrastructure. This bill expands the funds currently available through the School Security Competitive Grant Program.

The expansion of this program to allow communication systems to count as security devices further allows schools to develop their security systems. These devices will allow educators, parents, and first responders to communicate effectively in an emergency.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Connecticut Education Association President, Kate Dias](#) supports this bill because tragic events at school can have even more severe effects if not for security technology to help

protect students. This also promotes communication between educators, parents, and first responders to keep children safe.

[Connecticut Association of Independent Schools Executive Director, Rick Branson](#) supports this bill because school security has become a necessary priority. Funding to enhance security has enabled schools to be safer for students, and they believe that this bill would further that progress.

[Connecticut Catholic Public Affairs Conference Associate Director, Anne LaMonica](#) supports this bill because keeping children safe at school is a matter of public safety and should be a top priority. They also recommend that the cap on the grant be changed from fifty-thousand dollars to one-hundred-thousand dollars because these schools rely heavily on public funding.

[The Woodstock Academy Dean of Student Affairs, Karin Hughes](#) supports this bill because it provides students with safe learning environments. The ability to implement communication devices could make a real difference in an emergency and will contribute to the safety of students.

[Connecticut Association of Independent Schools Advocacy Chair, Christopher Sandford](#) supports this bill because allowing the use of security funds for communication systems can be the difference between life and death in an emergency. This will help keep children safe which is an important priority.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Julia Cabral

Date: 3/25/2025