



DR. NANCY GOLDEN
Chief Education Officer

April 7, 2015

Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood
c/o Chair Senator Sara Gelser
Re: Senate Bill 939

Dear Committee Members,

I would like to express my support for Senate Bill 939 detailing strategies to help children of an incarcerated parent. I believe that the components of this bill would help to stabilize families and improve education outcomes for students.

Children with parents in the criminal justice system face many challenges due to the separation from their parent and the instability that often comes with having a parent in jail. Together, these factors make it difficult for children to come to school ready to learn. Through the creation of partnerships between the Department of Corrections and non-profit organizations, this bill would provide classroom space for children to engage with their incarcerated parent, allow for parent-teacher conferences from jail, provide parenting classes, and foster regular communication with the incarcerated parent and the caregivers of the children outside of prison.

I believe that this bill is a critical step forward in closing the opportunity gap and more holistically supporting families across the state.

Thank you,

Dr. Nancy L. Golden
Chief Education Officer