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Testimony to the House Children and Seniors Committee In Support of SB83

March 17, 2021

Chair Concannon and Committee Members:

Our associations support SB83 allowing the State Child Death Review Board to disclose information to law enforcement and prosecutors in certain situations. This is the provision found on page 3 lines 10-17 of the bill relating to law enforcement and on page 3 lines 18-25 relating to county and district attorneys. However, we do have a concern with the word "and" on lines 15 and 23.

There are three scenarios relative to this conversation where the proposed information sharing is needed:

- 1. A child's death has occurred as the result of abuse or neglect and no law enforcement investigation has taken place. SB83 page 3 lines 10-17 does not cover this because of the "and" on line 15 and the criteria in (C) is not met.
- 2. A child's death has occurred, a law enforcement investigation has not confirmed abuse or neglect occurred but the CDRB has evidence of abuse or neglect law enforcement does not have. SB83 page 3 lines 10-17 covers this because all three criteria in (A), (B) and (C) are met.
- 3. A child's death has occurred, a law enforcement investigation concludes abuse or neglect occurred but the CDRB has evidence law enforcement does not have and rules that abuse or neglect did not occur or was not the cause of the death. SB83 page 3 lines 10-17 does not cover this because of "and" on line 15 and the criteria in (B) is not met.

If the word "and" on page 3, lines 15 and 23 is changed to "or" all three scenarios are covered.

AMENDMENT SUGGESTION:

Amend the word "and" to "or" on page 3 lines 15 and 23.

We urge you to recommend the bill favorably.

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