



Monroe County Legislature

CALVIN LEE, JR.
ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC LEADER

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No. <u>090126</u>
Not to be removed from the Office of the Legislature Of Monroe County
Committee Assignment
Memorializing Referral -L

April 9, 2009

To the Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
407 County Office Building
39 West Main Street
Rochester, New York 14614

Re: Memorializing the United States Congress to Pass and President Barack H. Obama to Sign into Law S.163 and H.R.1469, the Child Protection Improvements Act of 2009

Honorable Legislators:

Every year, millions of adults volunteer for a number of causes that help make their communities better places to live. In 2006 alone, more than 16 million adults provided volunteer service to education or youth programs. Youth-serving organizations (YSOs) also employ a significant number of people, especially here in Monroe County, where we have an established, well-respected network of agencies dedicated to the well-being of area youth.

It is very important that YSOs have the proper tools to screen potential volunteers and employees through an accessible and efficient background check process. YSOs must be able to "screen out" individuals with criminal backgrounds, especially convicted child predators.

The National Child Protection Act of 1993 and the Volunteer for Children Act both sought to shore up the deficiencies in the background check process, but a 2006 report found that these laws did not achieve the intended impact. As of 2007, only eighteen states allow youth mentoring organizations to access nationwide FBI background searches. Furthermore, a criminal background check can cost an organization nearly \$100 and can take as long as 42 days to complete.

Endorsed by the Afterschool Alliance, the American Camp Association, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, the Boys & Girls Club of America, and the YMCA, the Child Protection Improvements Act of 2009 gives youth organizations permanent access to FBI fingerprint searches by establishing an applicant processing center that YSOs can use to screen potential employees and volunteers. The legislation also calls for the Attorney

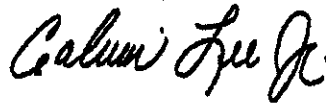


General to enter into an agreement under which the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children shall establish a criminal history center that is charged with annually assessing state agencies on the basis of background check accessibility, cost, and processing time.

In order to keep our youth safe from former criminals, including sex offenders, that have no business volunteering and working for agencies that work with children, we must provide YSOs with the tools necessary to more effectively screen out convicted child predators and individuals with criminal backgrounds.

Therefore, we urge you to join us in memorializing the United States Congress to pass, and President Obama to sign into law, S.163 and H.R.1469, the Child Protection Improvements Act of 2009.

Respectfully submitted,



Calvin Lee, Jr.
Assistant Minority Leader



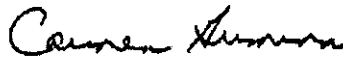
Harry B. Bronson
Democratic Minority Leader



Carrie M. Andrews
Assistant Minority Leader



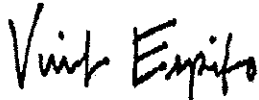
Richard A. Beebe
Legislator - District 6



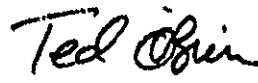
Carmen F. Gumina
Legislator - District 8



Travis R. Heider
Legislator - District 14



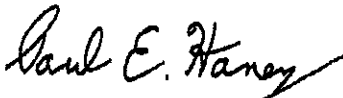
Vincent Esposito
Legislator - District 16



Ted O'Brien
Legislator - District 17



Glenn J. Gamble
Legislator - District 22



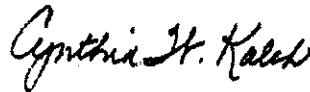
Paul E. Haney
Legislator - District 23



C. Stephen Eckel
Legislator - District 26



Willie J. Lightfoot
Legislator - District 27



Cynthia W. Kaleh
Legislator - District 28



José A. Cruz
Legislator - District 29