

The Connecticut General Assembly



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Rep. Urban Named 2016 Children's Champion

Honored by local group for advocacy on behalf of young children

Children's Committee House Chair Diana Urban (D-Stonington) was presented the 2016 Children's Champion award by the Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance (CECA) today at the Global Child School, an early childhood school and care center in Stonington.

CECA is a statewide organization that advocates for the needs of children ages birth to eight. The Children's Champion recognition is given to legislators who support the well-being of Connecticut's young children in the areas of healthy development, early care and education, and nutrition and safety.

"I'm honored to be recognized by the Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance, and I'd like to thank them for all the good work they do for children in our state," **Rep. Urban** said. "As co-chair of the Children's committee, I'm committed to protecting the health and safety of our children and ensuring they have the resources they need to thrive. I'm particularly proud of the work we've done to improve childhood behavioral health outcomes, and I will continue to fight for our state's most vulnerable children."

Rep. Urban championed a 2013 law, PA13-178, that brought together several state agencies to create a plan for meeting the mental and behavioral health needs of Connecticut children. This year, the task force responsible for making those recommendations was codified into law. She has also worked to ensure that children at the Connecticut Juvenile Training School are provided with the necessary care and resources.

In the 2016 session, the legislature passed several Children's Committee bills making improvements to foster care and guardianship programs, and the committee introduced

bills to combat childhood obesity and remove toxic flame retardant chemicals from children's products.

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