

The Connecticut General Assembly

House Democrats



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Stamford Legislators Back Bill to End “Passing the Trash” *School districts should share info on sex offender teachers*

Rep. William Tong (D-Stamford, Darien), Rep. Daniel Fox (D-Stamford) and Rep. Caroline Simmons (D-Stamford) applauded the legislative Judiciary Committee’s approval of [legislation](#) to ensure that local and regional boards of education have information concerning whether an applicant has been found to have committed abuse or sexual misconduct and that local and regional boards of education share findings with other boards of education who may otherwise unknowingly hire a sex offender.

“Our schools must be safe for students, and this legislation helps to ensure that,” Rep. Tong, co-chair of the Judiciary Committee, said. “Providing boards of education with all the information they need to make informed decisions in hiring is common-sense policy.”

Colloquially known as “passing the trash,” a school system may force a teacher who has committed sexual abuse to resign. However, the teacher may be able to get a job in another school district or another state because boards of education do not share information about the teacher.

“Our top priority is to ensure that children are safe when they go to school every day,” Simmons said. “This is about shielding students from sexual predators and ensuring that such incidents are disclosed so that students in other districts are safe too.”

“This is an important piece of legislation that promotes a safe school environment and will go a long way towards protecting our state's students,” Rep. Fox said. “I want to thank Chairman Tong and Representative Simmons for their leadership on this crucial issue.”

If approved by the House and Senate and signed into law, Connecticut would join Pennsylvania, Missouri and Oregon as the only states to require boards of education to share information on sexual abusers.