

**31ST DISTRICT
PATRICIA H. VANCE**

JAN 12 2011

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TO: ALL SENATORS
FROM: Senator Patricia H. Vance
DATE: January 11, 2011
SUBJECT: Memo #3 – Child Abuse Identification Training for School Personnel

In the near future, I plan to reintroduce SB 1137 from last session to amend the Public School Code by requiring school personnel to receive training in the identification and reporting of child abuse.

Currently, school personnel are considered mandated reporters of child abuse under the Child Protective Services Law but there is no requirement that these same mandated reporters receive any training in indentifying the abuse. The legislation would require a minimum of three hours of training every five years. Educators would be permitted to use these courses towards their continuing professional education requirements.

Approximately 15% of school districts have provided a Department of Public Welfare approved course on child abuse recognition to some of their staff. Pre-training surveys of this course for the past 10 years have indicated that participants do not fully understand their legal obligation to report nor are they confident of their ability to recognize the various types of abuse.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please email Amy Bolze at abolze@pasen.gov or call my office at 787-8524.