

SUBJECT: Child Protection Legislation
FROM: Representative Kathy Watson

I am preparing to introduce legislation that would amend the Child Protective Services Law (Title 23, Chapter 63) to expand employment protection provisions to permissive reporters of suspected child abuse.

Under current law, certain individuals are required to report suspected child abuse, and anyone is permitted to make a report of suspected abuse. The law gives only mandated reporters legal recourse if they are dismissed from employment or face discrimination from their employer as the result of having made a child abuse report. Per the recommendation of the Task Force on Child Protection, my legislation would expand this protection to any person who makes a good faith report of suspected child abuse.