

SUBJECT: Child Protection Legislation
FROM: Representative Dan Moul

I am preparing to introduce legislation that would amend the Child Protective Services Law (Title 23, Chapter 63) to provide for the background clearances that must be obtained before an individual is allowed to work with children. My legislation is based on the recommendations of the Task Force on Child Protection, with regard to the expansion of required background clearances. My bill would:

- Expand background clearance requirements to include those who volunteer in roles where they will be supervising children.
- Create a tiered system of bars to employment (or volunteering) for those required to obtain clearances, in order to more closely mirror the requirements for school employees.
- Require employees or volunteers to disclose arrests and convictions (or face a criminal penalty) that would affect their ability to work with children.
- Require employees and volunteers to undergo background clearances every 24 months.
- Allow DPW to accommodate a higher volume of clearance requests by providing more time to respond to standard requests, and allowing an additional fee of \$5 in order to expedite a request.