



The Process of Passing Connecticut's Change in Its Criminal Law and Independence for Children Law

Let Grow began work on legislation in Connecticut in 2019, working with a group of advocates from the Wilton Youth Council. A hearing on proposed legislation was held but competing proposals from the law enforcement and child welfare agencies led to inaction by the legislature.

In 2023, Let Grow renewed its work with the Wilton Youth Council and added many advocates from across Connecticut to join in supporting a legislative change. Under guidance by Capitol Strategies, Let Grow was able to secure the bicameral Judiciary Committee support for Raised Bill 1133, which passed the legislature unanimously following a full hearing and a unanimous vote in the Committee. The language of the bill resulted from extensive negotiations. The child welfare agency was not willing to make changes in the state's neglect law but did agree to change a policy that disapproved of children being alone below the age of 12, in favor of a much more liberal policy that allows reasonable parents to decide when their children are capable of independence. Governor Ned Lamont signed Raised Bill 1133 on June 21, 2023 as P.A. 23-176.

For more information see:

L. Skenazy, Reason (12/30/30),
<https://reason.com/2022/12/30/new-britain-connecticut-mom-cps-cops-parents-kids-walk/>

T. O'Dea and T. Simms, <https://ctmirror.org/author/tom-odea-and-travis-simms/>

David Pimentel, [Legislating Childhood Independence](#), 50 *Pepperdine Law Review* 285 (2023).

Liz Mair,
<https://www.ctpost.com/opinion/article/liz-mair-opinion-new-law-a-victory-for-kids-18183965.php>

<https://goodmorningwilton.com/wilton-youth-orgs-laud-gov-lamont-signing-bill-increasing-childhood-independence-an-effort-with-wilton-roots/>

Chris Keating,
https://www.courant.com/2023/03/12/a-case-for-childhood-independence-legislators-want-to-change-restrictive-ct-neglect-law/?fbclid=IwAR3glG9drQnIOZAx0Kq8dUubol2_t999SOB5DOzEE9whlGwZmcVgaJjUYCE

L. Skenazy,

<https://letgrow.org/?citation=news-12-connecticut-new-law-means-more-freedom-and-less-supervision-for-kids>