



**Letter to the Editor – May 28, 2014**

**Providers care**

The most truthful statement in Margery Eagan's column was "To be clear, we don't know for sure what happened in Walpole" ("A child's allegations swept away — again," May 22).

As the state's largest association of human service providers, the Providers' Council is tired of the scurrilous attacks and innuendos made against our community-based organizations. For more than 200 years, the Home for Little Wanderers has provided a safe, caring and nurturing environment for thousands of young people in its care.

A top priority of human services providers is to ensure their residential environments are safe. These headline-grabbing, sensationalized stories do nothing more than mislead the public and create a hysteria that does not foster a safe or responsible caring home. Instead of these alarming stories, we would hope the Herald would appreciate that thousands of children, parents and foster parents are often in difficult personal and family situations.

For the Herald to speculate on an investigation before it is completed does not help strengthen a system to help young people across the commonwealth.

— Michael Weekes, president and CEO Providers' Council, Boston