



State of Connecticut
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF STATE'S ATTORNEY

CHRISTOPHER L. MORANO
CHIEF STATE'S ATTORNEY

300 CORPORATE PLACE
ROCKY HILL, CONNECTICUT 06067
(860) 258-5800

TESTIMONY OF
CHIEF STATE'S ATTORNEY CHRISTOPHER L. MORANO

IN SUPPORT OF:

H. B. NO. 5211 (RAISED) AN ACT
CONCERNING UNDERAGE DRINKING

The Division of Criminal Justice supports the concept of H.B. 5211 (RAISED), An Act Concerning Underage Drinking, and recognizes it as a step in the right direction.

However, the proposed penalty of an infraction, usually a minimal fine payable by mail, does not adequately recognize the irresponsible action. The penalties for both actions should be a misdemeanor.

The Division also would suggest that a first-time offender be offered the opportunity to complete a period of community service as punishment for the offenses.

In the past it has been suggested that legislative proposals of this type would allow the police to enter an individual's home to investigate underage drinking without cause. This is simply not true. As with the investigation of any event, a police officer would need probable cause to arrest an individual on this offense and all constitutional protections would apply not only to individuals but also their homes. This bill cannot and will not infringe upon the protections embodied in the Fourth and Fifth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution.

The Division supports the concept of this bill and stands ready to assist the Committee in any way.