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**Testimony of James Papillo, Victim Advocate
Submitted to the Judiciary Committee
Monday March 13, 2006**

Good afternoon Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee. For the record, my name is James Papillo and I am the Victim Advocate for the state of Connecticut. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT** of:

Raised Bill No. 5613, *An Act Requiring the Criminal Docket to be Posted on the Internet.*

As the Victim Advocate for the State of Connecticut, I find that one of the major complaints from crime victims is lack of information about or notification of pending court proceedings pertaining to alleged offenders. I have proposed legislation in the past to deal with such notification to crime victims and have testified before legislative committees as to the importance of providing such victim notification which is a state constitutional right afforded to crime victims.

Providing timely notification to crime victims provides them with a genuine opportunity to assert other rights afforded to crime victims to participate in the criminal justice process. In addition to the right to attend and participate, our state constitution grants crime victims with more substantive rights such as the right to receive restitution from the criminal, the right to be reasonably protected from the accused throughout the criminal justice process, the right to be heard with respect to any plea entered into between the defendant and the state and, again, to be heard at sentencing of the convicted person. The right to receive such notification is the gateway to exercising the other rights afforded crime victims. Crime victims cannot exercise rights in criminal proceedings if they are uninformed about the date, time and location of such proceedings.

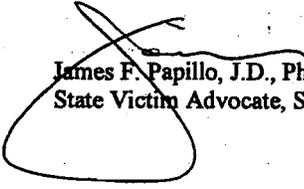
Raised Bill No. 5613 proposes making information from the criminal docket available to the public via the Internet. Depending on the seriousness of an alleged crime, or the degree of public interest in the case, information about an alleged offender after an arrest has been made is easily available in the databases of most media services in Connecticut and can be obtained by any member of the public. Therefore, any intrusion into the privacy rights of accused offenders, especially when weighed against the rights of the public and the victim to know, would be minimal.

As the State Victim Advocate, I will continue the push for improvements to providing crime victims in our state with timely notification of criminal court

proceedings and other information related to criminal prosecutions. Any improved method of providing public access to information from the criminal docket of the Superior Court, as is proposed here, would be a benefit to crime victims.

I urge this Committee to support **Raised bill No. 5613.**

Thank you for considering my testimony.



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