

Public Hearing March 23, 2006

Mr. Chairmen Lawlor and McDonald, and Members of the Judiciary Committee, I am Robert B. Carrara, from the Town of Andover. I'd like to submit commentary on Raised Bill Number 5780: An Act Concerning Safe Schools.

Distance should not be the measure for school safety. Raised bill number 5780 could be improved by including action upon the visual impact the drug culture has upon our youth. The drug culture like pornography, has a visual impact that we should shield our children from. We don't want such pornographic images, nor the images of drug sales and use, to influence their beliefs that such activity is a normal way of life in the cities, nor in the suburbs.

Peer role models, hip older kids, rich older kids plying their trade, making easy money, is an alluring vision. The very image of drug trade and use, like pornography needs to be removed from youth consciousness. Let kids be kids. Any arrest for the public sale or use of drugs should incur a mandatory sentence with public sale or use being defined as anywhere outside a private residence. The use of lookouts or marketers with the actual sale indoors should also be treated as a public sale.

Any vision of the drug trade is an unacceptable influence upon our youth (the same could be said for prostitution). Drive drug sale and use underground. It will make the job harder for law enforcement, but our youth would benefit as they wouldn't have those hip older kids hanging around, grooming them for the trade, turning them on as companions, or intimidating them into silence. Measure school safety in quality of life, our ability to live in public, and not hide indoors. Make the drug and sex trade hide behind doors. Keep our streets and parks free of drug user waste and wasted drug users. Remove drug trade violence from public ground.

Take back the public domain for our youth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert B. Carrara". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.