

**REGARDING BILL #: HB 5812
(Megan's Law Enhancements Bill)**

An act concerning the registration and supervision of sexual offenders

March 20, 2006

The Connecticut Children's Alliance urges you to support the proposed Megan's Law Enhancements Bill in order to ensure that sexual predators are found, prosecuted and appropriately monitored, and that their victims are subsequently protected and have access to appropriate services.

My name is Ann Glaser. I am the Vice-Chair of The Connecticut Children's Alliance, which is a coalition of professionals from Connecticut's Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC) and Multidisciplinary Teams (MDT).

MDTs and CACs coordinate investigation activities of child victims of sexual abuse. These efforts both:

- Support the successful prosecution of sexual offenders, and
- Ensure that victim's rights are recognized and honored.

This multidisciplinary approach to cases in which children have been sexually abused is the national "best-practice" standard. This coordinated effort results in an increased likelihood of successful prosecution and a reduction of trauma to the child.

Funding for these programs is limited and tenuous. The Megan's Law Enhancements Bill, #HB5812, recognizes the need for these coordinated response programs, and supports the effort via the provision of stable funding. This will ensure that the state of Connecticut can continue to provide the level of response and service provision required to investigate and prosecute these perpetrators while maintaining the integrity and safety of the victims.

To reiterate, in order for Megan's Law to be effective and meaningful, offenders must be identified and prosecuted. The role of Connecticut's Multidisciplinary Intervention Teams (MDT) and Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC) is crucial in this effort.

Please support the Megan's Law Enhancements Bill in its entirety.

Thank you.