

RICHARD BLUMENTHAL  
ATTORNEY GENERAL



Office of The Attorney General  
**State of Connecticut**

***TESTIMONY OF  
ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARD BLUMENTHAL  
BEFORE THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
MARCH 13, 2006***

I appreciate the opportunity to support House Bill 5465, An Act Concerning DNA Testing and the DNA Data Bank.

This legislation increases the penalty for an inmate refusing a blood or other DNA test from a class A misdemeanor to a class D felony. The proposal also expands the information that can be disclosed to law enforcement officers from the DNA data bank. Finally, it adds a representative from the Judicial Branch to the DNA Data Bank Oversight Panel.

DNA is a significant evidentiary resource for law enforcement. It can be used to exonerate as well as investigate and establish guilt.

The DNA Data Bank Oversight Committee includes my office, the Chief State's Attorney, the Commissioner of Public Safety and the Commissioner of Corrections. We have worked closely to develop the data bank and implement it. Our committee has recommended the amendments contained in House Bill 5465.

Some convicted felons refuse to submit a DNA sample for the data bank. The current penalty of a class A misdemeanor is insufficient to discourage them from defying the law. Many have been convicted of very serious offenses. An additional misdemeanor penalty does not provide a meaningful incentive.

Finally, the Judicial Department has been assisting the committee in its statutory duties. House Bill 5465 will recognize the integral role the Judicial Department has in the Data Bank activities by including that department on the oversight committee.

I urge your favorable consideration of House Bill 5465.