

Dear Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor, and the distinguished members of the judiciary committee. My name is David Sunshine, and I live in Lyme, CT. I am writing in SUPPORT of House Bill 5812, an act concerning the registration and supervision of sexual offenders.

It is clear that the State of Connecticut needs to provide more intensive supervision of sexual offenders by increasing the number of probation and parole officers who supervise sexual offenders. The state should provide for the expansion of services provided by multidisciplinary teams and children's advocacy centers, and establish a Risk Assessment Board to classify sexual offenders based on their risk of re-offending.

It is right to classify certain offenses for registration purposes as criminal offenses against a victim who is a minor, as well as require registration for certain voyeurism offenses. The system should require registered sexual offenders to report name changes to the appropriate authorities. This bill will authorize the registration of offenders prior to their release from the custody of the Commissioner of Correction, as well as clarify the registration period for certain offenders who were registered under the pre-1998 law.

The State should require the registration of out-of-state offenders who move to this state if they were required to register in that other jurisdiction without regard to whether they were convicted of substantially equivalent crimes that would require registration in this state, and to clarify registration and reporting requirements for such out-of-state offenders. Agencies supervising sexual offenders in the community should be required to report the number of such offenders being electronically monitored.

The sexual offender registry in our State is a valuable resource that allows our residents to identify dangerous criminals living amongst us in society. Improving and expanding this resource aids the public in protecting themselves and their families from those who have proven through their previous actions their ability to harm others. I would like to remind the Committee that they have another bill in front of them this legislative session that will make the sex offender registry even more effective in protecting Connecticut citizens. Raised Bill 308 will provide for a violent offenders registry that will exist as part of or in concert with the sex offenders registry, providing similar information pertaining to those who have committed the most egregious violent crimes of a non-sexual nature. I strongly encourage the judicial committee to make an investment in the safety of all our citizens by passing and fully funding both of these important bills.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

David Sunshine
Lyme, Connecticut