

Good Afternoon,

I am Don Skewes and a 19 year veteran of Law Enforcement with my last eighteen years with the Vernon Police Department. I presently hold the rank of Detective and have for the past seventeen years and have the primary responsibility of investigating sexual offences against children, and more recently the monitoring of sex offenders within the Vernon community. I also am the co-chairman of the Tolland County Multidisciplinary Investigation team that has been in existence for many years.

I am here to speak in support of HB5812 concerning the registration and supervision of sexual offenders. As a team member of the Tolland County MIT we meet monthly to discuss investigations involving children that have been sexually victimized. This is done with many professionals from the Department of Children and families, Medical professionals, Youth counselors, State's Attorney office, sexual assault crisis centers, and State and local law enforcement.

Under Connecticut General Statue 17a-106 we are held to certain mandates. To this date the MIT's and Children Advocacy Center have received no state funding, leaving these groups to depend only on unreliable federal funding.

Under HB5812 funding would be provided to the (15) MIT's and (7) CAC's in the State. This bill would also provide closer supervision of sex offenders. This is not an option as it is well known that sex offenders are known to re-offend. Over my (17) years I have investigated hundred's of sex offenders. In many cases these offenders have admitted to assaulting multiple victims before they were caught. Many of these offenders had also been convicted and incarcerated and then released into the community, without the publics or law enforcement knowledge.

The present laws have helped monitor some of these offenders, and with HB5812 this will improve the monitoring of the offenders resulting in less children being victimized.

HB5812 with its funding would further provide the MIT's and CAC's the required funds for our professionals to continue what I consider one of the most important jobs, **PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN!**

It is my opinion that this bill must be supported. The law makers of Connecticut have an obligation to protect our children. This Bill will help in this task by providing stricter supervision of sex offenders, providing a risk assessment panel to evaluate the potential risk an offender poses prior to being released into our communities, and the funding would support the continuing efforts of our professionals to protect our children and help with the operations of the CAC's and MIT's

Thanks You

Det. Don Skewes

Vernon Police department

725 Hartford Turnpike

Vernon Ct 06066

860-872-9126 ext270