

RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
ATTORNEY GENERAL



Office of The Attorney General
State of Connecticut

**TESTIMONY OF
ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
BEFORE THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
MARCH 24, 2006**

I appreciate the opportunity to support House Bill 5818, An Act Concerning Lost or Stolen Firearms.

This proposal would require a person to notify police within 72 hours of discovering that the gun is lost or has been stolen. The failure to report is subject to a \$500 criminal fine, except that intentional failure to report is a class A misdemeanor for the first offense and a class D felony for any subsequent intentional failure to report. The proposal also requires firearm owners to store or keep the firearm in a manner that reduces the risk of the firearm being stolen or lost.

People have a legal right to own and possess certain firearms in Connecticut. With this legal right comes a responsibility to safely store such firearm from access by children. House Bill 5818 extends this responsibility to include storing the firearm in a manner to reduce the risk that it will be stolen or lost.

House Bill 5818 also imposes the responsibility to timely report to police of any theft or lost of a firearm. Many stolen or lost firearms are used in crimes. In a national study on stolen firearms, Americans for Gun Safety found more than 10,000 firearms were stolen in Connecticut during a 10 year period from 1993 through 2002. The vast majority were taken from private homes and motor vehicles. Only half of the stolen firearms were recovered. Reporting a lost or stolen firearm within 72 hours of discovery will assist law enforcement in their efforts to reduce the illegal use of firearms on our streets.

I urge the committee's favorable consideration of House Bill 6657.