



# State of Connecticut

## SENATE

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March 20, 2006

Dear Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I come before you today to **support S.B. 619 AAC *The Seizure of Motor Vehicles of Sexual Predators***. As we are all aware, there has been an increase in internet sexual predators targeting our children and leading to sexually explicit meetings and outcomes, therefore I thank you for recognizing this as a growing problem and working to address it. Part of the 15<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District extends to Naugatuck and the Naugatuck Police Department has arrested 10 predators to date, and through the arrest process the police have learned that the perpetrators planned to have sex with juveniles in their vehicles. Therefore, the Naugatuck Police Department attempts to seize these vehicles, but the courts rule that the vehicles weren't used in a crime; therefore they have to be returned to the predators. It is the Department's feeling that these vehicles were used in the commission of a crime and pre-meditated plans were made to have sex with juveniles in these vehicles.

Connecticut State Statute 53a-83a, Titled Patronizing a Prostitute from a Motor Vehicle, which states "any motor vehicle used in the commission of this offense shall be subject to forfeiture to the state in accordance with sections 53-36j to 54-261." The above statute states that these Motor Vehicles are subject to forfeiture to the STATE, but I would ask that that these vehicles are subject to forfeiture to the TOWN where these predators are arrested.

However, I would note that how S.B. 619 is currently written allows loopholes which should be remedied prior to passage. As presently written section 1 states "A person is guilty of using a motor vehicle to engage in unlawful sexual activity with a minor when such person, while occupying a motor vehicle, **ENGAGES** in sexual activity for which the actor may be charged with a criminal offense." Perhaps this language should reflect "engages or makes arrangements to engage in sexual activity for which the actor may or may not be charged with a criminal offense." Also, in this vein, deleting the words "while occupying a motor vehicle" would be appropriate. In addition, section 2 (C) 3 currently reads "to be deposited in the general fund of the town" perhaps it would be more effective to be amended to read "to be deposited into a special fund established for internet safety education, and or sexual predator enforcement."

Please know that in Federal Statute on these types of cases there is a minimum / mandatory five year jail sentence. The last predator that the Naugatuck Police Department arrested for arranging to meet a juvenile female for the purpose of sex over the internet was sentenced by the Waterbury Court for 60 days. This sentence is just inexcusable in the fight to protect our children. Therefore a minimum / mandatory jail sentence would be appropriate as well.

Thank you for your consideration in passing S.B. 619 which would begin to address this growing problem.