

# CONNECTICUT DEMOCRATS

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Written Testimony of Democratic State Party Chairwoman Nancy J. DiNardo

Senator Slossberg, Representative Caruso and members of the GAE  
Committee:

The 2006 election cycle was extremely successful for Connecticut Democrats but my office was not inundated with phone calls of congratulations. Instead, people called to complain about the number of "Robo Calls" they had received. If used properly, these calls can be a valuable campaign tool. This year, however, some Connecticut residents reported to me that they received as many as ten "Robo Call" messages during the dinner hour in a single evening.

I applaud the committee for taking action on this increasing public nuisance by raising Senate Bill 1313, "An Act Concerning Political Robo Calls". As State Democratic Party Chairwoman, I believe all candidates should implement all possible options regarding their campaigns, yet we seemed to have crossed the line in the 2006 cycle.

I believe that one of the essential parts of this proposed legislation is to include full disclosure in the beginning of the phone call so those on the receiving end know from where the call is coming. Many times calls would begin with a phrase that would lead you to believe the call was on behalf of a candidate; however, one would quickly realize the call was intended to create a negative perception of the candidate. If a caller is required to announce themselves in the beginning, there would not be an appearance of deception.

I understand the benefit of recruiting politicians and other prominent people to offer their services by recording a "Robo Call" on the behalf of a local legislator, but we need to take into consideration that this practice is invasive to a voter in the privacy of their own home.