



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Good morning Chairman McDonald, Chairman Lawlor, Ranking Members Kissel and O'Neill along with members of the Judiciary Committee.

Yesterday, I, along with members of the House Republican caucus, held a press conference on child safety. We titled our proposal, *Around the Block, Around the Clock* because we felt our children should be protected everywhere and at all times.

At our press conference we discussed a number of measures that we believe will strengthen our laws protecting children in this state. Areas included, improving the state's sex offender registry with up-to-date photographs and current registry information, reviewing records of those contracted to work on school grounds, teaching children and their parents Internet safety and what to look out for when online, and finally we discussed what we believe is paramount to providing safety to our children - barring convicted sexual offenders from residing close to schools and daycare centers.

I am here today to testify on a House Republican proposal, **HB 5503, AN ACT CONCERNING RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS FOR REGISTERED SEXUAL OFFENDERS**. This bill requires convicted sexual offenders to reside at least one thousand feet away from a school or child care center. Parents protect their children when they are in the car, at home or while on vacation. What I am saying to you today, is that we want to ensure our children are protected where they spend the better part of their days, at school. Offenders currently residing within the one thousand feet perimeter would not be required to move under our proposal.

When you consider the behavior of sex offenders, it would defy logic to do anything other than vote for a bill like this. I say this because there are two things that are clear: first, sexual offenses against children are generally not a one-time thing. When you see the rap sheets of sex offenders on registries, it's clear that most of them have committed multiple offenses. Sex offenders show an unwillingness to overcome their temptations. The second thing we know is that kids congregate and hang out in masses around schools, making these areas desirable locations for sex offenders.

Therefore, the purpose of this bill is simple: protect our children by removing sex offenders from what they see as a constant temptation.

I thank you for the time today to address you with what I believe is a very serious matter that should be addressed by this committee.