



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE

Testimony In Support Of
Committee Bill No. 6060, An Act Concerning Disruption Of A Funeral
Judiciary Committee
March 19, 2007

Senator McDonald, Senator Kissel, Representative Lawlor, Representative O'Neill and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am sorry I cannot testify in person at this public hearing, but appreciate that your committee has drafted this proposal as a committee bill and scheduled it for a public hearing.

The disruption of the funerals of veterans by protesters is something that I think any citizen would agree is shocking and disrespectful. That this occurs on a regular basis throughout our state and country is disturbing, which is why I am supporting this legislation.

This bill will establish a penalty for the willful and unauthorized disruption of a funeral or memorial that takes place within the sixty minutes before or after the funeral or memorial and within five hundred feet of the funeral or memorial. I believe it will balance the need for dignified, respectful funerals and memorials for our veterans with the Constitutional guarantee of freedom of speech.

I encourage your support and favorable vote on this bill and thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,


Mike Alberts
State Representative