



TO: MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
FROM: CONNECTICUT TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (CTLA)
DATE: MARCH 16, 2007

RE: **OPPOSITION TO RB6825 AN ACT CONCERNING LIABILITY
FOR SERVICES RELATED TO IDENTIFICATION OF MISSING
AND ABDUCTED CHILDREN**

The CTLA opposes the expansion of immunity in RB6825 and respectfully urges defeat of the proposal.

The section of the statute this proposal seeks to amend, 55-557q, was passed in 2003 with support from the CTLA in order to facilitate the Amber Alert program. The possibility of liability for advertisers was a major hurdle in getting the much needed program started. In 2005, the act was expanded to clarify that outdoor advertisers such as billboards were included in the immunity provision, recently it was announced that the electronic billboard operators will be participating in the Amber Alert program.

Narrowly drafted to ensure the viability of the Amber Alert program, this immunity provision addressed a concern advertisers had over possible liability, as was evidenced by a handful of defamation suits brought on behalf of innocent citizens whose reputation was irrevocably damaged when they were mistakenly broadcast as a fugitive or "most wanted". A survey of trial attorneys nationwide has turned up no such suits against compilers of the data used in anticipation of broadcast.

Immunity from suit should be reserved for those rare occasions when liability would hinder an important program such as the Amber Alert. The CTLA also contends that such immunity should be reserved for instances where there is more than a theoretical or imaginary threat of liability.

**FOR THESE REASONS THE CTLA RESPECTFULLY
URGES DEFEAT OF RB6825.**