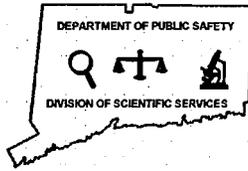


STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

John A. Danaher III
Commissioner

Lieutenant Edwin S. Henion
Chief of Staff

Rep. Michael P. Lawlor, Co-Chairman
Sen. Andrew J. McDonald, Co-Chairman
Judiciary Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

April 4, 2007

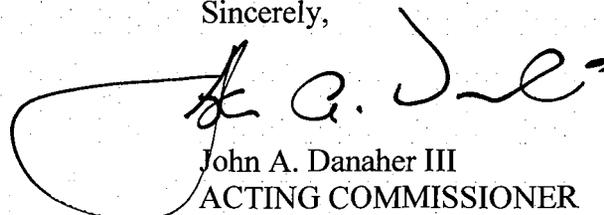
SB 1458 AN ACT CONCERNING JESSICA'S LAW

The Department of Public Safety continues to see an increase in crimes involving the sexual exploitation of children on the Internet. Victims of these crimes are highly vulnerable not just as a result of their age or experience but also because of the unprecedented access that offenders have to these children.

Traditionally, mandatory minimum sentences are implemented as a means to deter individuals from committing crimes. For the sexual offender, the reality of serving a harsh sentence very rarely serves as a deterrence to the offense. The use of mandatory minimum sentencing for sexual offenders provides its greatest benefit as a physical barrier, protecting the public from the offender.

The horrific nature of these crimes should result in lengthy sentences. Setting the statutory minimum mandatory too high, however, can act at cross purposes if they are set so high that no defendant will enter a plea. The language of this bill provides a viable compromise by providing mandatory sentencing without setting statutory minimums so high that no defendant will enter a plea.

Sincerely,



John A. Danaher III
ACTING COMMISSIONER