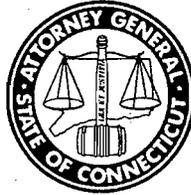


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*TESTIMONY OF
ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
BEFORE THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
APRIL 10, 2007*

I appreciate the opportunity to support House Bill 6901, An Act to Fight Violent Crime Arising From Lost or Stolen Firearms.

This proposal would require a person to notify police within 72 hours of discovering that a gun is lost or has been stolen. The failure to report is subject to a \$500 criminal fine, except that intentional failure to report is a class A misdemeanor for the first offense and a class D felony for any subsequent intentional failure to report. The proposal also requires firearm owners to store or keep the firearm in a manner that reduces the risk of the firearm being stolen or lost.

People have a legal right to own and possess certain firearms in Connecticut. With this legal right comes a responsibility to safely store such firearm from access by children. House Bill 6901 extends this responsibility to include storing the firearm so as to reduce the risk that it will be stolen or lost.

This measure also imposes the responsibility to report to police any theft or loss of a firearm. Many stolen or lost firearms are used in crimes. In a national study on stolen firearms, Americans for Gun Safety found more than 10,000 firearms were stolen in Connecticut during a 10 year period from 1993 through 2002. The vast majority were taken from private homes and motor vehicles. Only half of the stolen firearms were recovered.

Many of these guns are used in crime in Connecticut. From 2002 through 2004, guns were used in 187 homicides, 2,018 aggravated assaults and 4,547 robberies. Reporting a lost or stolen firearm within 72 hours of discovery will assist law enforcement in their efforts to reduce the illegal use of firearms on our streets.

I urge the committee's favorable consideration of House Bill 6901.