

RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
ATTORNEY GENERAL



55 Elm Street
P.O. Box 120
Hartford, CT 06141-0120

Office of The Attorney General
State of Connecticut

**TESTIMONY OF
ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
BEFORE THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 23, 2007**

I appreciate the opportunity to support House Bill 7086, An Act Concerning Registration of Sexual Offenders.

This legislation amends the sex offender law -- requiring courts to order a person found guilty of certain sex crimes to wear a global positioning system device, creating a predatory sex offender category, updating photographs of registered sex offenders, and increasing penalties for sex crimes involving children under the age of thirteen years.

I have successfully defended Megan's Law against constitutional attack and have worked closely with the Department of Public Safety in its implementation. While Megan's Law is provides important information to the public regarding sex offenders who live in their neighborhoods, more needs to be done to provide greater safety.

This proposal requires the sex offender to annually provide an updated photograph. Tens of thousands of individuals check the Megan's Law website. The photograph must be as current as possible for identification purposes.

House Bill 7068 requires court imposition of GPS monitoring for individuals convicted of certain sex crimes. GPS can enable police to quickly track a convicted sex offender, if necessary, and assist active monitoring. The proposal should be amended to add a more general provision that the court has authority to order GPS monitoring as a condition of probation whenever public safety would be enhanced or served.

The legislation increases the penalties for certain crimes, potentially an effective deterrent.

I urge the committee's favorable consideration of House Bill 7086.