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GOVERNOR

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

March 20, 2008

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Governor

State of Connecticut

Testimony Supporting HB 5033: An Act Prohibiting Sexual Offender Name Changes

Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 5033, An Act Prohibiting Sexual Offender Name Changes.

House Bill 5033 prohibits both the state superior court and the probate courts from allowing a person who is required to register as a sexual offender in the state of Connecticut to officially change his or her name.

This bill will remove the possibility that a sex offender will be able to escape detection by changing his name and therefore will allow us to more effectively track sexual offenders. By enacting this bill, you will provide increased protection to those who might fall victim to these dangerous predators.

As I have often said, public safety is the primary responsibility of state government. This proposal will remove a loophole that might let a convicted sexual offender escape detection, significantly enhance our ability to keep track of these predators, and ultimately allow us to be more confident that we are doing everything within our power to ensure public safety.

I urge you to report House Bill 5033 out of the Judiciary Committee so that it may be enacted into law by both chambers of the General Assembly.

Thank you for your consideration of this important proposal.