



State of Connecticut

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TESTIMONY ON SB 641

Good afternoon Chairmen McDonald and Lawlor, Senator Kissel and Representative O'Neill. I am Senator Rob Kane from the 32nd district. Today I would like to testify in support of Senate Bill 641, An Act Concerning Repeat Violent Offenders.

During my recent campaign in the special election, I had the opportunity to get out and speak with numerous constituents in each of the ten towns that I now have the honor and privilege to represent. I heard their concerns, listened to their suggestions, and came away from the experience with a pretty fair snapshot of the minds and will of my community. Besides the usual concerns about high taxes, high energy costs, and educational quality, the issue that came up most in conversations was violent crime, and what to do with habitual offenders.

People had been shocked by the horrific murders of the Petit family, killings that occurred in a quiet community much like those in my district. They demanded to know what could be done to protect them and their families from such predators.

As I view it, the greatest obligation of the State is to protect its citizens - To have laws that govern behavior, and to have punishments in place when those laws are broken. Punishment as a penalty for the crime committed, punishment as a deterrence to those who might commit such a crime, and punishment to remove those criminals from society

so that they cannot commit the crime again. That is why I fully support Senate Bill 641, the Senate Republican version of “three strikes”.

This bill will allow our State to take the worst of the worst violent criminals off the streets for good. To lock up those killers, rapists, carjackers, kidnappers, robbers, burglars, stalkers, and home invaders who are convicted not once, not twice, but three times for such a violent, horrible crime. It would take these cold blooded predators who refuse to be rehabilitated, who continue to commit senseless, violent crimes against the people of our State, and put them where they cannot hurt another innocent victim again. Someone who commits three violent rapes should not have the chance to commit a fourth.

As I spoke with the people of my district, I promised them that I would come to Hartford and work to strengthen our criminal laws. This “three strikes” proposal does just that. It will separate the violent, repeat criminals from future victims. While we cannot protect everyone from all crimes, we can and ought to protect them from criminals who continue to prove that they will commit violent crimes when continually given the opportunity to do so.