

Testimony to Committee on Public Health
Friday, February 29, 2008

Senator Handley, Representative Sayers and Members of the Public Health Committee:

Re: H.B. No. 5037, AAC METHAMPHETAMINES.

My name is Bob Brex and I am the Executive Director of Northeast Communities Against Substance Abuse, the Regional Action Council in Northeast Connecticut.

For the past several years, I have facilitated the Connecticut Methamphetamine Task Force, a collaborative effort of federal, state and regional agencies and organizations to provide training and information on methamphetamines and other drugs and their potential impact on the state.

Today, I am testifying in support of the Governor's bill, HB 5037, AA CONCERNING METHAMPHETAMINES. It is important that the State of Connecticut have legislation that provides for prosecution for the possession, sale or manufacture of methamphetamine. This bill has not passed previously but it is important to pass it this year.

Methamphetamines are not prevalent in Connecticut at this time but a change in drug market forces could quickly shift the landscape. It would be wise to be pro-active and get this legislation in statute. Methamphetamines are very potent and potentially addictive drug. History has shown that in other parts of the United States, the use of the drug can expand swiftly.

The most important piece in this bill is the criminal penalties for the sale, possession and manufacturing of the drug. Without state legislation, federal action would be the only step available for law enforcement.

Again, I would recommend passage of HB 5037.