Public Hearing **March 3, 2008** **Raised Bill No. 5528**

Good Afternoon – Chairman Lawlor and Members of the Judiciary Committee.

My name is Marie DeSousa, representing AFSCME Local 391, Connecticut State Prison Employees, North District. My local consists of approximately 1800 members comprised of Correctional Officers, Food Service Workers, Classification Counselors, Addiction Service Counselors, Commissary Workers, Industries and Maintenance Staff.

I've come before you today to respectfully request your attention to the proposed deletion to Sec.4 Section 1-217 of H.B. 5528 as it relates to #3 Employees of the Department of Corrections. I stand in opposition of this proposed change for it will compromise our goal of insuring security measures and confidentiality needs for our members are met. This proposed change would allow access to our member's resident addresses thus creating another exposed danger to our members and families. We work in an environment that is conducive to potential dangers on the job but to allow our home addresses to be readily available through the FOI Act would potentially enhance that danger away from the work place not just to our members but their families. The current law has given us a comfort zone that our families were protected from incarcerated inmates being able to reach them. Some of our members have gone to great lengths to avoid the inmate population from gaining their personal home information; unlisted telephone numbers and post office boxes are not uncommon.

We as a Union recognize that public money pays our members salaries and can understand the argument for full disclosure for governmental employees to a point. But many of us have families that we come home to and there are safety concerns that need to be taken under consideration for their sake as well as our own. Therefore, I encourage this committee to help us protect our families so we may continue to protect yours and the community by not eliminating current language that affords us our safety net.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie E DeSousa

Marie DeSousa
AFSCME Local 391