

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
MARCH 19, 2008*

I appreciate the opportunity to support House Bill 5834, An Act Concerning Antitrust Documents Voluntarily Submitted to the Attorney General.

This legislation protects the confidentiality of information voluntarily provided to my office as part of an antitrust investigation in the same manner as subpoenaed documents.

Under current law, any information provided to my office in compliance with a subpoena is not accessible to the public and exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. In many instances, information that is voluntarily provided -- and the name of the person providing such information -- cannot be similarly protected from disclosure. Yet, often that information may be as critical -- or even more critical -- to a pending investigation as subpoenaed information.

This proposal will not only eliminate the need for such subpoenas, it will also encourage more businesses to voluntarily provide the Attorney General's office with information on anti-competitive practices.

I urge the committee's favorable consideration of House Bill 5834.