

February 24, 2009

Sen. Calapietro, Rep. Shapiro, & Gen. Law Committee:

I am writing this letter in support of Bill No. **6519** regarding Pawnbrokers and Precious metal and Stones Dealers.

Eight years ago our house was burglarized while we were away on vacation. My jewelry was taken. Several days later when we returned home and identified the missing items, we filed a claim. The thieves were caught and confessed that they had sold the jewelry to a local Jewelry Dealer. Even with this information, much of my jewelry was never found. The dealer identified the jewelry, but informed us that he no longer had it (presumably melted down). I feel confident that had this law been in effect, I would have gotten back my stolen jewelry which had both monetary and sentimental value.

The current system, with no obligatory *Retention Period* for Dealers who purchase used jewelry, leaves no time for search and identification; it favors the thief, not the victim. Bill No. 6519 will assist the victim and the police in search and recovery of stolen jewelry.

Please support this Bill so that future victims of burglary have a better chance of recuperating their valuables.

Sincerely,

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