

February 26, 2009

Senator Calapietro, Representative Shapiro, & General Law Committee:

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak with you today regarding the raised Bill No. 6519, regarding Pawnbrokers and Precious Metals and Stones Dealers. I am asking you to support Bill No. 6519.

I was a victim of a theft in my home in Farmington. Several items of jewelry as well as a digital camera and a camcorder were stolen from my home and sold to a Pawnbroker.

Unfortunately, like most people, I was not able to recover any of my items. My items were stolen during the week of Christmas and New Years. By the time I got to all the Pawnbrokers in the town of Bristol, the 10 day retention period had expired. Without this Bill, victims like myself just don't have ample time to search the Pawn Shops and Precious Metal and Stone Dealers, which is where most of these stolen items end up. Victims not only lose their expensive belongings, but they lose the sentimental value, which is far greater. In my case, I lost all my Christmas photos and memories of my family during a very precious season to us.

With Connecticut General Statute 21-100 already in place, your support of this proposed amendment would simply enable victims the priceless opportunity to get back their belongings. It will allow victims like myself, the chance to discover a theft, report it to the authorities, allow the authorities reasonable time to investigate, and potentially recover their items. Without it, there just is not time for the necessary procedure to recover stolen goods. I tried and even with the authorities help, there wasn't enough time. Thank you for your time and consideration to this raised Bill No. 6519.

Sincerely, Beth Andrews 4 Maplewood Road Farmington, CT. 06032