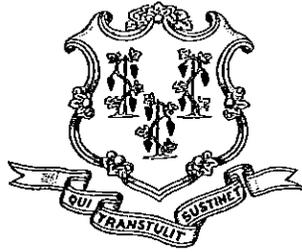


SENATOR MARTIN M. LOONEY

Majority Leader

Looney@senatedems.ct.gov

www.senatedems.ct.gov



Legislative Office Building, Room 3300

Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Telephone (860) 240-8600

FAX (860) 240-0208

State of Connecticut

SENATE

11th District

March 6, 2009

Good Morning Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor and members of the Judiciary Committee, I would like to express some thoughts on the issue of DNA collection from convicted persons. I proposed a bill on this topic, SB 542, AN ACT CONCERNING THE TAKING OF A DNA SAMPLE FROM CONVICTED PERSONS and I understand that there are several other bills which address related issues as well. My main concern is that the DNA sample should be taken at the front end of a prison sentence so that the person's DNA would be identifiable at other crime scenes.

This policy could prevent wrongful convictions because if the incarcerated person's DNA was collected from another crime scene, it would be unlikely that prosecutors would pursue convictions against other persons for that crime. This procedure would help prevent wrongful convictions such as those of Calvin Tillman and Miguel Roman. My original proposal included the idea of taking DNA samples not only from persons convicted of felonies but also from persons

convicted of class A and B misdemeanors. I believe that with the current budget crisis this may not be the year to undertake the additional costs to expand the database. However, I believe that in the future we should look at expanding the DNA database to include misdemeanors that involve the use of force.

Thank you for raising bills on this important issue.