



State of Connecticut

SENATE

STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

SENATOR SAM S.F. CALIGIURI
SIXTEENTH DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 2803
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591
HOME: (203) 753-5546
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8800
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1421
FAX: (860) 240-8306
E-Mail: Sam.Caligiuri@cga.ct.gov

RANKING MEMBER
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
REGULATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Date: February 23, 2010

To: Senator Thomas Colapietro
Representative Jim Shapiro
Senator Kevin Witkos
Representative Penny Bacchiochi
Members of the General Law Committee

From: Senator Sam Caligiuri

Re: ***SB 187 An Act Increasing Penalties for Violations of the No Sales Solicitation Calls Act***

Senators Colapietro and Witkos, Representatives Shapiro and Bacchiochi, members of the General Law Committee, I am here before you today to testify in favor of **SB 187, An Act Increasing Penalties for Violations of the No Sales Solicitation Calls Act.**

It has been nearly 10 years since Public Act 00-118 was passed that established Connecticut's "do-not-call" registry. Thanks to the work of many of you who are serving on this committee, tens of thousands of state residents have taken advantage of this law by placing their names and phone numbers onto this registry that has ultimately prevented them from receiving unsolicited and unwanted telemarketing calls.

The beauty of this law is that it has been flexible to both business and consumers in that it exempts calls made by telemarketers where a prior relationship exists or where permission has been granted by the consumer.

What some do not realize is that Connecticut's do-not-call list is part of the National Do-Not-Call Registry, meaning there is no separate list just for Connecticut residents maintained by the state. Anyone wanting to shield themselves from unsolicited calls is automatically placed on the national registry.

It has been brought to my attention that while our state is a part of the National Do-Not-Call Registry, violators of the state's do-not-call laws face civil and possible criminal action under **Connecticut's Unfair or Deceptive Trade Practice Act**, which currently includes civil penalties up to \$5,000 for willful violations. This is inconsistent with federal law; in fact it is considerably less than what the federal law mandates.

SB 187 simply puts Connecticut in line with federal law when pertaining to penalties associated with the non-compliance of the No Sales Solicitation Calls Act. If Connecticut is using the national registry for its no call list, it is my belief that the penalties for violating the state statute should be equal to the federal law.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.