

**STEVEN J. ADAMOWSKI**  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Testimony of: Joseph Sikora  
In Support of House Bill #5486  
An Act Concerning Residency Restrictions for Registered Sexual Offenders

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

**OPENING CHOICE:** Honorable Chairmen and Members of the Committee

**TEXT OF TESTIMONY / STATEMENT OF POSITION:**

My name is Joseph Sikora, and I am the Director of Security for the Hartford Public Schools. I have been in this position for the past two years and previously held the position of Director of Security for the East Hartford Public School System for approximately 4 ½ years. I am contacting you today to support **HOUSE BILL #5486 AN ACT CONCERNING RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS FOR REGISTERED SEXUAL OFFENDERS.**

Public Act 09-199 was passed and effective September 1, 2009, the Department of Public Safety was mandated to let the Superintendent of Schools know when a sex offender registrant changes their address or plans to reside in the city or town that they serve. To date Hartford has received approximately 294 notifications from the Department of Public Safety. As of March 21, 2010, there are 571 Sex Offenders on the Registry residing in the City of Hartford. A review of the notifications showed there were approximately 23 convicted of Sexual Assault in the First Degree and approximately 154 individuals were convicted of crimes involving minors. This is a significant figure given the number of sex offenders residing in the City of Hartford.

Providing a safe and healthy learning environment is a priority for the Hartford Public School System. Establishing a law which provides a safety zone around our schools which limits the opportunity for convicted sex offenders to reside near our schools is another step in the effort to provide this safe and healthy learning environment. Studies have been done by various organizations that claim a recidivism rate of anywhere between 5 and 30 percent. This safety zone will hopefully limit the opportunity for contact between our children and a potential sex offender. Sex crimes have far reaching consequences for their victims, especially a child victim. Their entire life can be affected by such an event. Every possible step should be taken to insure their safety. The passage of this bill will certainly help protect our children while going to, attending and returning home from school.

**ENDING:**

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today on this important issue and I ask that you support **HOUSE BILL NUMBER 5486 AN ACT CONCERNING RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS FOR REGISTERED SEX OFFENDERS**

Office of the Superintendent  
960 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06103  
Phone: (860) 695-8401 • Fax: (860) 722-8502  
[www.hartfordschools.org](http://www.hartfordschools.org)