

Department of Correction

Testimony of Brian K. Murphy, Acting Commissioner

Judiciary Committee

*Raised Bill No. 479, An Act Concerning the Attendance of Registered Sexual Offenders at School Functions Involving their Children*

March 22, 2010

Good morning, Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor and members of the Judiciary Committee. The Department of Correction would like to express its concerns about Raised Bill No. 479, *An Act Concerning the Attendance of Registered Sexual Offenders at School Functions Involving their Children*.

The Parole and Community Services Division employs an evidenced-based multidisciplinary approach to effectively manage registered sex offenders in the community. This approach includes techniques and interventions shown to result in positive outcomes and reduce sexual recidivism. Restricting access to potential victims is a critical intervention which reduces the likelihood of future sexual victimization. Parole officers responsible for the supervision of registered sex offenders make decisions to exclude certain registered sex offenders from contact with minors using all available information and input from the division's collaborative partners.

These partners include contracted sex offenders treatment providers from The Connection Inc., Center for the Treatment of Problem Sexual Behavior; polygraph examiners; victim advocates from Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services; State Police from the Connecticut State Police Sex Offender Registry Unit; local law enforcement responsible for matters relating to registered sex offenders; Department of Correction institutional sex offender treatment providers; and staff from the Board of Pardons and Paroles.

Parole's sex offender management techniques and other interventions include the use of validated sex offender risk assessments; individualized case management plans; offense specific cognitive-behavioral sex offender treatment; intensive supervision including frequent compliance checks and GPS monitoring; toxicology; sex offender registration; victim advocacy; computer monitoring and computer forensic examinations; and surveillance.

Raised Bill No. 479 would restrict the division's ability to exclude certain high-risk registered sex offenders, when necessary for public safety, from attending events and meetings at their children's school. Many registered sex offenders on parole have supervision and treatment conditions prohibiting them from contact with minors. A law allowing registered sex offenders to attend school functions would negatively impact the division's comprehensive sex offender management strategy.

Thank you for the opportunity to present the Department's views on Raised Bill No. 479. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have.