



State of Connecticut
SENATE
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

SENATOR SAM S.F. CALIGIURI
SIXTEENTH DISTRICT

25 HARTLEY DRIVE
WATERBURY, CONNECTICUT 06705

HARTFORD: (860) 240-8800
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-1421
HOME: (203) 753-5546
FAX: (860) 240-8306
EMAIL: Sam.Caligiuri@cga.ct.gov

RANKING MEMBER
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE
MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
REGULATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Testimony of Senator Sam S.F. Caligiuri
HB 5237 An Act Concerning the Investigation of Missing Person Reports
Public Safety and Security Committee
March 4, 2010

Senator Stillman, Representative Dargan, Senator Guglielmo, Representative Perillo, and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee, I am here before you today to testify in favor of **HB 5237, An Act Concerning the Investigation of Missing Persons Report**. I want to thank the committee for raising this bill.

This matter was brought to my attention last year by a Waterbury family who has experienced the anguish and despair associated with searching for a missing person. In fact, through their efforts your committee last year passed legislation similar to the bill before you that helps to make the process of locating missing persons more efficient. While the bill never made it to the floor of either chamber for a vote, their hard work has educated many about the need for a streamlined information system for missing persons.

None of us can fully understand the pain and frustration that families of missing persons experience. The ability to cope with the distress of "not knowing" the whereabouts and safety of a loved one can be overwhelming. Because of this, many people do not know where to turn when someone they care about goes missing.

This legislation seeks to do a number of things to assist law enforcement agencies to locate missing persons. First and foremost, the bill sets up a system for people to turn to should they ever be in the situation where they need to conduct a search. Oftentimes when someone goes missing there is a great deal of confusion that leads to the loss of valuable time and resources.

As you know, one of the most important tools in protecting the public's safety is communication. HB 5237 sets new procedures in the way in which law enforcement agencies disclose information and how they interact and communicate with family members and other agencies when dealing with missing persons cases.

The basis of the legislation is to provide a set of guidelines and procedures in the way cases of missing persons are handled. Most importantly, it requires cooperation between law enforcement and those making missing persons reports. These guidelines will help save time in what can be a race against the clock in locating and returning missing persons safely back to their families.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.