

**Testimony on
H.B. 5533, An Act Concerning Sexting
Judiciary Committee
March 22, 2010**

Hello to chairmen, Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor and all present State Representatives,

I'm writing this letter in regard to house bill HB-5486. As a parent of two young children I'm very concerned that Connecticut has not yet adopted a law that would restrict a sex offender from residing near locations that children convene. My husband and I purchased our first home 4 years ago in a neighborhood that has a public park and is 1 block away from an elementary school, which our first born now attends kindergarten. We thought it would be a great place to raise kids, only to find out 1 year later that there is a registered sex offender living across the street from us and the public park, which is always filled with laughter from the kids on the swings and parents cheering their children during football and baseball games. We then contacted an attorney only to find out that Connecticut is one for the few states that doesn't have a law in place restricting sex offenders from residing in such locations. This is very concerning and upsetting to us as parents, especially with the recent reports of child abductions by sex offenders in the United States. My husband and I would really hope that this bill be passed and enforced. Our Connecticut children need this little bit of extra protection in their lives. I thank you for taking the time to read my letter and we greatly apologize for not being able to come to Hartford today. Looking forward to hearing that bill HB-5486 becomes law.

P.s. Just keep in mind the days when you grew up and you could walk or ride your bike to your friends house or the park and your parents didn't have to watch your every step.

Sincerely,

Lourdes and Peter Mendler, Jr.
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