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Testimony of Senator Sam S.F. Caligiuri
SB 223, An Act Requiring Noncustodial Parents To Provide Emergency Contact Information
Judiciary Committee
March 3, 2010

Good afternoon, Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor, Senator Kissel, Representative O'Neill, and members of the committee. My name is Sam Caligiuri and I am the Senator for the 16th district. I come before you today afternoon to testify in support of SB 223, An Act Requiring Noncustodial Parents to Provide Emergency Contact Information, and to strongly urge this committee to pass the bill.

Raising a child takes cooperation between parents. Decisions need to be made, information needs to be shared, and it is vital that parents be able to contact each other, especially in cases of emergencies involving the children. That is the point behind this bill. The premise is simple – parents should provide a means to contact each other when such contact is vital to the safety, security or health of the child.

This bill is not a one-size-fits-all solution to a problem. Our society is unfortunately full of situations where contact between parents of a child is not possible due to physical dangers or threats. And this bill takes that into account, by allowing the court, upon a showing of good cause, to refuse to share the information between the parents. But absent such circumstances, we need to make sure that parents can be in touch with each other when they need to be. Raising a child requires parents who work together, who cooperate, who put aside their differences to do what is right for their children. This bill simply tries to facilitate that cooperation by making possible contact when necessary. I respectfully request this committee to pass this bill to improve the partnership that parents must share in raising their children. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of the bill.