



**TESTIMONY**  
**JOHN YUSZA, JR.**  
**CONNECTICUT ALARM & SYSTEMS INTEGRATORS ASSOCIATION**  
**BEFORE THE**  
**GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE**  
**FEBRUARY 24, 2011**

The Connecticut Alarm & Systems Integrators Association (CASIA) *supports* **HB-6265, AN ACT CONCERNING ADVERTISING BY NONLICENSED TRADESPERSONS**, which will protect consumers from unwittingly contracting with an unlicensed tradesperson.

In the security and fire alarm industry, there are an increasing number of “trunk slammers” - individuals who purport to be affiliated with a security alarm company but who are essentially operating out of the trunk of their car. This type of supplier is generally not properly licensed, may not maintain an office or insurance coverage and may not be around to honor equipment warranties. They lure customers in with promises of free or cheap alarm equipment to anyone who signs a long-term monitoring contract. These practices clearly jeopardize the safety and welfare of Connecticut residents who are relying on security alarm companies to protect their loved ones and their valuables.

Unfortunately, these individuals often flood the marketplace with advertising, particularly after a fire or theft in a neighborhood, to try to solicit new business quickly. In order to install, repair or service a security or fire alarm system in Connecticut, an individual must hold a valid license from the state Department of Consumer Protection. Licensed low voltage electricians are required to display their license number on advertising and trucks to help enforce licensing laws and protect consumers.

This bill closes the gap in the law by prohibiting unlicensed tradespeople from advertising to perform work for which a license is required and subjecting violators to fines. This will allow the state to better protect residents from unscrupulous practices.

CASIA urges you to support **HB-6265** to help protect the people of the state of Connecticut from potentially harmful situations. We look forward to working together to serve the public for a safer environment.

*CASIA, a statewide trade association established in 1974, is comprised of alarm companies working together to protect lives and property through the responsible use of electrical security and fire alarm systems. Our members are professional and technically skilled and experienced in integrated systems for intrusion and fire systems, closed circuit television, telephone, intercom, home theater, access control systems and computer wiring.*