



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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February 15, 2010

Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan
Members of the Public Health Committee

RE: HB 6113, An Act Concerning The Investigation Of Missing
Adult Persons Reports

I am testifying in favor of HB 6113 AAC The Investigation Of
Missing Adult Persons Reports. This bill is before you because of
the case of Billy Smolinski, whose family has suffered greatly and
found that in Connecticut adult missing persons and the families of
adult missing persons were given little attention or were often
dismissed by law enforcement officials.

The reason for this is that the common thought that adult missing
persons might have left willingly and law enforcement resources
were scarce.

This bill is a follow up on Public Act 07-151 that charged the Police Officer and Training Council with developing a policy on adult missing persons.

I commend Thomas Flaherty for his work to incorporate the new policy into a training curriculum, but we need to do more. This new bill makes specific recommendations regarding the collecting and entering of data, on procedures for the Office of Medical Examiner, on the collection of DNA of unknown persons, on the acceptance of adult missing persons reports, on procedures for sensitively dealing with families, on the creation of a disc with step by step instructions for the line officers, and the inclusion of training in the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System created by the Office of Justice Programs National Institute of Justice.

Janice and Bill Smolinski have dedicated their lives to creating a better system so that other families will be spared their heartache. I ask you to give them the victory they have worked so hard to achieve by passing this bill. Bill Smolinski is still missing but through this bill, no other family will have to experience what the Smolinski family did and Billy will leave an important legacy to the state of Connecticut