

Department of Correction

Testimony of Leo C. Arnone

Judiciary Committee

Raised Bill No. 6538, *An Act Concerning the Collection of Blood and Other Biological Samples for DNA Analysis*

March 9, 2011

Good morning, Senator Coleman, Representative Fox and members of the Judiciary Committee. The Department of Correction supports efforts such as Raised Bill No. 6538, *An Act Concerning the Collection of Blood and Other Biological Samples for DNA Analysis*, which would assist the Department of Public Safety and other law enforcement agencies in solving criminal cases in a timely manner.

The Department has made a concerted effort with the support of federal funds to take DNA samples at the front end of an offender's incarceration, rather than at the back end. I am quite pleased to report that the Department is in 100 percent compliance on the front end. However, there are still about 400 inmates who have refused to submit to the taking of a DNA sample from when we tested to address the backlog. The proposed provision that would allow the commissioner or the commissioner's designee to use reasonable force would enable the Department in obtaining samples from those 400 inmates who have continued to refuse to submit to the taking of a DNA sample. Currently, there is no real incentive to cooperate if an inmate with a long sentence has concerns about being identified for another crime. This provision would allow us to support public safety and the efforts of our law enforcement partners.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this matter.