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Senator Fasano Testimony in favor SB 1093
Judiciary Committee
Wednesday, March 30, 2011
1:00 PM in Room 2C

Chairman Coleman, Chairman Fox, Ranking Member Kissel, Ranking Member Hetherington, and members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today concerning **SB 1093, An Act Concerning the Continuation of Child Support Obligations After the Termination of Parental Rights Due to Abuse or Neglect of the Child.**

The termination of parental rights represents the court ordered severance of the legal relationship between the child and his/her parent. This termination results in the loss of any rights or responsibilities the parent has to that child. A parent who, either voluntary or involuntary, has their parental rights terminated by the courts therefore no longer has to pay child support. In cases when the termination of rights and responsibilities was caused by abuse or neglect, I do not believe this is fair to the remaining parent.

Children have the right to support, including the basic fundamentals such as food, clothing, medical care and adequate domicile. The public policy of child support is based on the belief that both parents are obligated to support their children, even when the children are not living with both biological parents. If one parent's rights are terminated, the remaining parent becomes the sole parent or guardian, and financially responsible for supporting the child.

SB 1093 requires the parents whose parental rights were terminated due to abuse or neglect to continue the obligations of child support. Victims of these crimes should not be put in further financial risk by absolving the perpetrator from responsibility to financially support the child. Thank you again for the opportunity to voice my strong support for this important measure, and I urge its' passage.

Thank you.