



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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*Testimony by Representative Jason Perillo  
Before the Joint Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
On Senate Bill 198  
February 28, 2012*

Good afternoon Chairmen Leone and Hennessy, Ranking Members Welch and Adinolfi, and members of the Joint Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity today to testify in favor of SB 198.

The theft of property unfortunately has become a more common occurrence in our society. The items I speak of today are copper, bronze, and other valuable metals. These items are stolen and then sold for scrap. In particular, two sources of these metals include veterans' monuments and memorials found on town greens as well as cemeteries.

In 2011 the towns of Ansonia, Derby and Shelton had a rash of such thefts over several weeks. I personally find this repulsive that individuals would desecrate their veteran's monuments that were erected in recognition of their service to our country, some of whom paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Section 46a-58(b) of the CT Statutes states that: "Any person who intentionally desecrates any public property, monument or structure, or any religious object, symbol or house of religious worship, or any cemetery, or any private structure not owned by such person, shall be in violation of subsection (a) of this section." It goes on to say in subsection (e) "Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor, except that if property is damaged as a consequence of such violation in an amount in excess of one thousand dollars, such person shall be guilty of a class D felony." SB 198 would double this fine and "the court shall require full restitution for all costs of repair and replacement of the property damaged in violation of this section if that property is a war or veterans' memorial or monument."

The change this bill proposes is appropriate and will compensate towns for the repair or replacement of those memorials and monuments that honor our veterans and war heroes.

Thank you for holding this hearing on SB 198 and I wish to express my support of the bill and ask the committee's favorable action.

Sincerely,

Rep. Jason Perillo  
State Representative  
113<sup>th</sup> District