

Department of Correction
Testimony of Leo C. Arnone, Commissioner

Judiciary Committee
March 16, 2012

Raised Bill No. 5429, *An Act Prohibiting Disclosure of the Identities of Persons Appointed to Administer the Death Penalty*

In another initiative to shield staff from harassment and retaliation, Raised Bill No. 5429, *An Act Prohibiting Disclosure of the Identities of Persons Appointed to Administer the Death Penalty*, would protect the identity of any staff person who is involved in a court-ordered execution.

Connecticut is one of 34 states that have the death penalty as a punitive sanction.

Of those states that carry the death penalty, all, either by state law and/or department policy, or in accordance with past practice, do not disclose the identities of the members of the execution team. Those states keep the names and other identifying information of those involved in an execution confidential to protect the individual from harassment, intimidation and threats. In 2008, Missouri was the last state to enact legislation that requires the identity of the execution team to be confidential and provides for a cause of action if the identity is disclosed.

Following the state's last execution, the DOC responded to a number of requests from a variety of sources, including the media and other state agencies for information about those staff who were involved in the execution at significant cost to the state. As the DOC commissioner my name and the name of the warden that receives the execution warrant are going to be attached to any execution. Agency staff that volunteer to perform their responsibilities in a professional manner should not have to fear being subjected to harassment, and threats. Recent interest in and Freedom of Information requests for information about staff who have participated in training is just a precursor of what the Department of Correction will be challenged by should this legislation fail to be enacted.