

Testimony for
HB 5530, An Act Permitting The Posting of Legal Notices On Municipal Websites

To the General Law Committee:

My name is Russell Blow and I have resided in the Town of East Hampton CT since 1978. I am a retired Httfd. Police Detective, City of Httfd., Httfd, CT, and had almost 24 yrs. with the department. I then took a job with the State of CT, Dept. of Consumer Protection, Liquor Control Division where I was employed for 10 1/2 years. I believe there is not much I have not seen or done in law enforcement over the years. Domestic & alcohol have led to more serious crimes, injuries and deaths then one can imagine. I was lucky with HPD that we had a Traffic Division who handled all serious or fatal accidents. It was not until I was with Liquor Control and started investigating fatal accidents involving alcohol and found out that very few Police Departments even sent in police referrals to the state Liquor Control who license the premises to sell alcohol, and we (liquor control) not aware of any wrong doing unless we read it in the newspaper, or made inquiries. There is NO Law that says a police dept. must submit a referral, so the liquor establishment keeps right on selling to intoxicated patrons until they get caught again and again and still maintained a license, {Why because Liquor Control was never notified about these incidents}.

The day my grandson was killed I was 1600 miles away. Without going into lengthy details, knowing the police in town as I do and the fact that "they had never sent a Police referral into the Liquor Control with hundreds of DUI arrest each year, and knowing the Cafe involved I call the help of friends of mine in the CT. State Police Dept. to look into the incident. Once, it was learned that it was my grandson who had passed away I knew there would be a thorough investigation.

Last year I was contacted by an Agent in Liquor Control to call a Mrs. Loprete whose daughter was killed by a drunk driver in the southern part of the state. The driver was almost 4.0. He was arrested, convicted and the police department knew where he was consuming alcohol and had been all night. A POLICE REFERRAL WAS NEVER SENT TO THE LIQUOR CONTROL. WHY, BECAUSE IT IS NOT REQUIRED: Mrs. Loprete could not understand this and neither can thousands of others who have lost or been seriously injured by DUI drivers, there must be a check and balance system that can work.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you.

Russell Blow