



State of Connecticut

SENATE

STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

SENATOR CLARK CHAPIN
THIRTIETH DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
SUITE 3400
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591
Capitol: (800) 842-1421
E-mail: Clark.Chapin@cga.ct.gov
Website: www.SenatorChapin.com

DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER

RANKING MEMBER
ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
REGULATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE

February 7, 2012

Chairmen Doyle and Baram, Ranking Members Witkos and Carter, and members of the General Law Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 326, AN ACT INCREASING PENALTIES FOR "DO NOT CALL" VIOLATIONS.

Connecticut's Do Not Call list has undoubtedly cut down on many unsolicited calls, and yet some still persist. Despite tens of thousands of Connecticut residents applying for protection, it seems some solicitors have made the cost/benefit analysis to ignore the law, willfully violating its provisions on the chance that a sale could be made from an unsolicited cold call. We need to make their decisions to violate our laws more difficult by significantly increasing the penalty for violations.

Enacted in 2000, Connecticut's own Do Not Call law, called the "No Sales Solicitation Calls" list, prohibits unsolicited calls to those consumers that have enrolled with the Department of Consumer Protection. Connecticut law applies to both landline and cell phones. Any violation of the law shall be deemed an unfair or deceptive trade practice, subject to a civil penalty of \$5000. Recognizing that the potential for a civil \$5000 penalty did not exactly dissuade unscrupulous solicitors, the law was amended in 2010 to include an additional penalty of up to \$11,000 for each violation. Judging from the amount of complaints I receive from constituents who have added their phone numbers to the list, and yet still receive unwanted solicitation, I do not believe that \$11,000 is enough. If enacted, SB 326 would double these fines to \$22,000, however, any significant increase would help.

Thank you again for the opportunity, I urge you to vote in favor of SB 326.