



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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Judiciary Committee
Wednesday, March 12, 2014
Testimony in opposition to,

S.B. 259, An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission Regarding the Enhanced Penalty for the Sale or Possession of Drugs Near Schools, Day Care Centers and Public Housing Projects

Honored Chairs, Ranking Members, and Members of the Judiciary Committee

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak, I offer the following testimony in opposition to this proposal.

Speaking on behalf of numerous constituents who are concerned about the drug epidemic in our state, I staunchly oppose this proposal. As a parent, grandparent, and doctor, I am keenly aware of the dangers drugs pose to the health and safety of our communities.

I am appalled as to why anyone would support a Bill that puts our children at greater risk by easing restrictions on drug dealers. This proposal would shrink the Drug Free School Zones from one thousand five hundred feet to two hundred feet. Many children walk this distance every day to and from school, and it is our job to ensure there are laws in place which adequately protect them. As drugs get closer to our schools, other forms of crime and violence will certainly follow.

As the State Representative from the 31st district, one of my greatest obligations is to stand for the health and safety of my community. Indeed, we must all put the safety of our children before the rights of criminals.

Thank you for your consideration and I strongly urge you to oppose S.B. 259, a proposal that would be incredibly detrimental to the health and welfare of our entire state.

Prasad Srinivasan, State Representative, 31st District