



## State of Connecticut

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### Judiciary Committee Public Hearing Wednesday, March 12, 2014

Good Afternoon Chairmen Fox and Coleman, Ranking Members Rebimbas and Kissel and Members of the Judiciary Committee. I am here today to testify in support of **Raised Bill Number 5449: An Act Concerning Residency Restrictions for Registered Sexual Offenders.**

I would like to thank the Judiciary Committee for raising this important concept that I proposed earlier this session.

This bill restricts registered sexual offenders, upon release into the community, from residing within one thousand feet of public or private elementary or secondary schools or child day care facilities. There are exceptions provided from these restrictions if the offender has an established residence within one thousand feet of these properties prior to the effective date of the bill or if a school or daycare facility is newly built near an offender's residence. Any violation of these restrictions is a Class A misdemeanor.

We have seen similar proposals in the past that have not moved forward in the legislative process. I understand that this is a potentially contentious bill, but I truly believe that we need to do something to ensure that our children are safe from sex offenders when we send them to school or daycare. I am open to suggestions on how we can do this. I think that we all want to do what is best for our children. This bill simply prevents sex offenders from residing close by the places that our children spend the majority of their days, and I believe this is a reasonable restriction.

I urge the Judiciary Committee to pass Raised Bill Number 5449 so we can continue to examine ways that we can better protect our children from sexual predators.