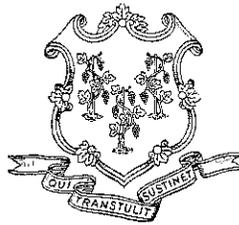


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February 24, 2015

Good Afternoon Senator Leone, Representative Baram and members of the General Law Committee. I would like to offer my support for SB 629 An Act Requiring Kill Switches for Smartphones. It has been well documented that theft of smartphones has become a major problem across the country. According to the Federal Communications Commission, smartphone thefts now account for 30 to 40 percent of robberies in many major cities across the country. Robberies always have the potential to become violent. According to Consumer Reports, approximately 3.1 million Americans were victims of smart phone theft in 2013. Requiring that smart phones have a kill switch appears to be an effective deterrent to the theft of these phones and all the personal data they contain. Some phone makers have voluntarily added kill switches while others have not. We should require kill switches in all smart phones sold in Connecticut. This would protect consumers and level the playing field so that the cost is not borne solely by the companies that voluntarily offer this extraordinarily important consumer protection. Thank you for hearing this important bill.