



Legislative Testimony  
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**Written Testimony Opposing  
House Bill 5363, An Act Concerning an  
Online Registry for Convicted Murderers**

Senator Bradley, Representative Verrengia, and distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee:

My name is David McGuire, and I am executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut (ACLU-CT). I am submitting this testimony in opposition to House Bill 5363, An Act Concerning an Online Registry for Convicted Murderers.

The ACLU-CT supports the goal of protecting public safety, but we are very concerned about the practical and legal problems that the proposed registry would create.

What we have learned from the sex offender registries that already exist in Connecticut and many other states is that they can constitute an additional extrajudicial form of punishment and that they can lead to retaliation against people who are trying to rehabilitate themselves. Criminal convictions are public records that can easily be consulted for a background check when truly necessary. But the casual ease of consulting a public registry can bring unnecessary public exposure and retribution against those who have already paid their debt to society and are trying to rebuild their lives. Research clearly shows that a job, a stable home, and family support are the factors that prevent recidivism. And the reintegration of formerly incarcerated people into productive roles in society is good for everyone.

Worse, there is the danger that a poorly maintained and inaccurate database would cause confusion, potentially implicating completely innocent people with names similar to those of formerly incarcerated people. This would further undermine the commendable goal of protecting public safety.

We urge the committee to oppose this bill.