



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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June 7, 2005

Senator Robert S. Creedon, Jr., Senate Chair
Representative Eugene L. O'Flaherty, House Chair
Honorable Members of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary

RE: *Senate Bill 838, An Act to Protect and Enhance the Rights of Child and Adult Victim and Witnesses of Crime*
House Bill 706, Resolve to Establish a Special Commission to Investigate the Integration of International Human Rights Standards into Massachusetts State Law and Policies.

Dear Chairman Creedon, Chairman O'Flaherty and Distinguished Committee Members:

I would respectfully request the Joint Committee on the Judiciary report favorable on ***Senate Bill 838***. This legislation would make necessary changes to the current Victim Bill of Rights which would clarify some of the rights promised that have been left unfulfilled. The bill will also add new rights that would encapsulate the needs of victims for the recent crimes that are occurring in today's society that were not prevalent when the Victim Bill of Rights was established. Finally ***Senate Bill 838*** will codify the practices of many different criminal justice and enforcement agencies, as they have changed of the recent decades since the inception of the Victim Bill of Rights.

I would also respectfully request that the Joint Committee on the Judiciary report favorably on ***House Bill 706***. This bill would allow for the establishment of a commission to study the current international standards for human rights and how they may be implemented in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts laws and policies.

I thank you for your consideration. If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours truly,


Anne M. Gobi
State Representative

AMG/wsl