

PA12-078

HB5031

Higher Education	700-714, 742-746, 757-790, 798-818, 831-872	107
House	4295-4319	25
<u>Senate</u>	<u>4175, 4178-4179</u>	<u>3</u>
		135

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**HIGHER EDUCATION
AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT
PART 2
369 - 735**

2012

rgd/gbr HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT 11:00 A.M.
ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

that Representative Haddad was the Legislator that came forward with this proposal. So we were most supportive of moving ahead with this. So thank you for coming.

KRISTOPHER STRUZINSKI: Thank you very much, Representative.

REP. WILLIS: Now I'd like to call up Barbara O'Connor from the University of Connecticut.

BARBARA O'CONNOR: Good morning.

REP. WILLIS: Good morning. Welcome. We're really excited. Have you officially -- you haven't officially started yet.

BARBARA O'CONNOR: No. Start officially Thursday.

REP. WILLIS: That's wonderful.

BARBARA O'CONNOR: But it's a pleasure to be here.

REP. WILLIS: So your first coming out is before our committee.

BARBARA O'CONNOR: A lot of pressure.

REP. WILLIS: Well, thank you.

BARBARA O'CONNOR: Thank you. Thank you for the opportunity to address you regarding Raised Bill 5031, AN ACT CONCERNING SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES.

My name is Barbara O'Connor and I'm the university's newly appointed director of public safety and chief of police, although as mentioned, I don't officially begin my duties until March 8th. But I wanted to speak to you about this important issue.

With me today are Elizabeth Conklin, the university's Title IX coordinator and interim associate vice president of the office of diversity and equity, and Nicole Fournier Gelston, a legal specialist with the University of Connecticut's Attorney General's office.

The university appreciates the Legislature's interest in ensuring that Connecticut's institutions of higher education are doing their part to raise awareness of the prevalence of sexual assault on college campuses and to afford appropriate assistance to the victims of sexual assault.

As the incoming director and chief of police, I am committed to continuing and further developing the close partnerships that UConn Police has developed with the UConn community and administration to respond appropriately and swiftly to reports of sexual assault.

UConn's long-standing practices in response to sexual assault reflect a difficult but important balance between the needs and concerns of victims. The University's ethical responsibility to provide a safe campus environment and the existing legal framework under which the university is required to operate.

This legal framework includes several critical components. First being Title IX of the education amendments of 1972 and its implementing regulations, the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, known in our field as the Clery Act, and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, well known

as FERPA.

Each of these regulations proscribes very specific protocols that universities must follow when responding to sexual assault. Why we would be happy to discuss the numerous complexities of the requirements of these federal laws and regulations and how they would interact with proposed state legislation in this area, we thought it would be the best use of today's time to describe some of UConn's current initiatives in this important area. And for this discussion I'd like to turn this conversation over to Elizabeth Conklin, our Title IX coordinator.

ELIZABETH CONKLIN: Thank you. Good morning.

In recognition of the complex regulatory scheme and the importance of prevention and response to sexual assault on campus, the University of Connecticut has recently adopted an institution-wide comprehensive sexual assault response policy. And that demonstrates the university's long-standing commitment and approach to responding to victims of sexual assault on campus in compliance with the university's legal and ethical obligations.

The sexual assault response policy, which supplements the university's long-standing policy statement on harassment, assists university employees in responding appropriately to reports of sexual assault, including providing information to victims about contacting the police and receiving medical treatment and critical support services. The policy also promotes a safe campus environment by facilitating on-campus disciplinary processes and involving

March 6, 2012

rgd/gbr HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT 11:00 A.M.
ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

law-enforcement officials in conformity with applicable laws and regulations.

In terms of victim's services, members of UConn's long-standing community response team work closely with UConn administration and one another to provide a wide range of assistance and support to victims of sexual assault on campus. This includes but is not limited to providing assistance to a victim who decides to press charges with the police and/or to pursue disciplinary action against the alleged perpetrator on campus. Members of the response team additionally are in a position to provide counseling and mental health services, medical assistance and other on-campus assistance such as modifications to class and living schedules.

Presently UConn's community response team includes the UConn Police, the Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Eastern Connecticut, student health services, counseling and mental health services, the Title IX coordinator, the Office of Community Standards, the Office of Student Services and Advocacy, the Department of Residential Life, the Women's Center and the Violence Against Women Prevention Program.

Each of these member organizations is experienced with providing services to victims and each has worked and continues to work in close partnership with the UConn Police. In addition, these university organizations provide education and prevention efforts throughout the year including discussing issues of sexual assault and consent during first-year experience classes and orientation, and also holding various ongoing educational events aimed at preventing sexual assault. We are excited to see the efforts continue and

expand in close collaboration with the UConn Police under Chief O'Connor's leadership.

And in summary, the policies and response protocols we have outlined today have been developed at UConn with great attention to and mindfulness of existing state and federal regulations. In addition, we have closely followed and implemented best practices as they have developed among leading institutions of higher education nationwide and also statewide.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify today on this complex, important and difficult issue. And we would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge with gratitude the General Assembly's long-standing support for UConn.

We would be happy to answer any questions.

REP. WILLIS: Thank you.

Representative LeGeyt.

REP. LeGEYT: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Good morning.

BARBARA O'CONNOR: Good morning.

REP. LeGEYT: My question is general in nature and has to do with UConn specifically.

As regards to this bill, what in this bill would require UConn to change or increase the policies that you already have in place? In other words, how much of this bill is already covered by what UConn does?

NICOLE FORNIER GELSTON: Good morning. Nicole Fournier Gelston.

UConn essentially already does everything that's proposed in this bill, although not necessarily through one single policy. We have a sexual assault response policy which covers much of this. We have a student code which sets forth the requirements of the disciplinary processes which are really in 6b5c of the proposed legislation. So although we do most of what is covered by the bill, we don't do it all through a single policy necessarily.

REP. LeGEYT: So that would be your task if this bill passes, to just consolidate what you're doing and organize it into a more specific policy as this bill provides for.

NICOLE FORNIER GELSTON: Yes. Actually, it would probably be a very difficult task to put it all into one policy, but yes, that would be our task.

REP. LeGEYT: And as regards -- did you have more to share on that? As regards Section C, you already provide what Section c -- I mean, not Section C, Section 1c, sexual assault, an intimate partner violence primary prevention and awareness programming. Does that always already occur at UConn?

ELIZIBETH CONKLIN: The events that you reference very briefly in the testimony, there are ongoing prevention and education efforts that are occurring throughout the year. That's been true for quite some time at UConn, but also I think renewed efforts in light of a lot of federal legislative activity in this area over the past year.

And so we have been looking to increase the currently occurring trainings of students, of targeted populations as well as faculty and staff throughout the university. So that's something that's ongoing very aggressively right now and that we're continuing to think about under the Title IX lines how to continue those programs and advance them.

REP. LeGEYT: Thank you.

BARBARA O'CONNOR: If they may just -- I want to just supplement my answer to -- previously.

The one thing UConn may not do that's covered by this bill and it's not clear if this is the intent of the bill, but it appears that this bill would cover employees who, for instance, are sexually assaulted at home separate and apart from their employment with the university and currently the university does not address those employees.

Employees are covered under our sexual harassment policy and our sexual assault response policy if they are, for instance, assaulted or harassed at work.

REP. WILLIS: Thank you.

I have a question. You said that once, although you were doing this already at the university, it would be very difficult to put it all in one entity. And when you say, difficult, could you tell us a little bit more about that? Is it costs? What is it that makes it hard to put this all in one-stop shopping?

NICOLE FORNIER GELSTON: I think just that the

university has developed policies over the years, most recently the sexual assault response policy, which obviously deals with sexual assaults. This policy statement on harassment is probably a little broader, but targets a different area.

The student code covers the student disciplinary processes. So if a student is assaulted or harassed, for instance by another student, the disciplinary process would be governed by our student code. And so for instance, what I was referencing before as 6b5c, what is covered in there with the exception of E to some extent would be governed by our student code. And if there's a -- if the alleged perpetrator is an employee it goes through the Office of Diversity and Equity to different but similar procedures.

ELIZIBETH CONKLIN: And so I think, just to piggyback on one Nicole is saying, we have various policies in place that address the different communities that are present on our campus in terms of whether it's an employee, sexual-harassment; or a student, whether we're talking about sexual assault more specifically, there are different protocols in place.

And we have adopted a student code that follows the sort of model student code around this area. We have taken a very close look throughout the university at best practices as they've developed among higher education institutions nationwide. And we're very active in various member groups and LISTSERVs and associations and going to conferences and things.

So we have developed our practices in line with sort of the lead thinking among our peers around the country on how to facilitate these processes and handle this very delicate issue. And so there are different policies that impact different pieces of the process.

REP. WILLIS: Going back to the issue of the inclusion of employees in a home situation -- and that's something that this committee, after we review, you know, all the testimony will look at and see if we need clarification.

But what I wanted to ask, I mean, this really came out of what was not happening with the Clery Act on the federal level and that there was going -- there was a proposal to expand it, as this is intended to do, but it did not happen. I don't know what the status of it, you know, this year has been, but based on what I've heard, doesn't look like it's going to be moving forward.

So my question to you is, does the Clery Act cover employees, too? Or is this -- we've really taken it to a new level?

NICOLE FORNIER GELSTON: The Clery Act covers the location of a crime. So if there is a crime, a Clery crime that occurs on campus or on non-campus grounds owned or controlled by the university, it would cover that. So that would include a crime against an employee. Title IX kind of steps in for the sexual assault/sexual-harassment area. It would also cover employees on campus.

So it would not necessarily cover an employee. Certainly an employee with a domestic relation situation separate and apart from their employment, it would not really speak to those

employees unless there was something going on on campus. For instance, you know, the significant other was coming to campus and harassing the person or stalking the person and then the university would provide certainly some response in that situation.

REP. WILLIS: Oh, if someone -- if an employee was living in off-campus housing, so housing that was owned or controlled by the university, that would be covered. But what you're saying is we've gone beyond that. In this we're covering somebody who might be in a situation at home in nonuniversity related housing. Right.

NICOLE FORNIER GELSTON: Correct. Correct.

REP. WILLIS: Okay.

NICOLE FORNIER GELSTON: And Clery would only require that a report be made and possibly a timely warning be issued if there was some sort of danger to the campus community. Clery would not require these, the response that's outlined in the proposed legislation.

ELIZABETH CONKLIN: Although you know, certainly there are resources that are made available to both students and employees regardless of whether there is a university connection. So nobody would deny an employee or a student who come forward. Maybe there's not an attachment to campus, but we have a whole litany of resources that we're certainly going to try to connect the person with to help them with their situation.

REP. WILLIS: So taking this one step further again, so actually having an employee covered at home would meet, I mean, you would be

rgd/gbr HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT 11:00 A.M.
ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

concerned that that person would follow you back to campus, or -- and then -- or they might notify the school that this has happened at home and therefore they just wanted to make the university aware that they may be in an at-risk situation?

Would that be a --

NICOLE FORNIER GELSTON: No. I don't think that would be a concern and I think that happens. And frankly, I think the university appreciates that notice, because if there's any potential danger to the community or somebody, you know, within the campus community we want to know that.

I think the concern to the extent there is any would be an employee, for instance, in a domestic dispute, or an employee assaulted in a mall parking lot separate and apart from work coming to the university and saying, I want this, these responses. I need all of these accommodations, for instance.

Again, as Elizabeth said, I think in practice if an employee came to somebody at the university and needed assistance, they get that anyway. The university doesn't deny that, but it wouldn't --

REP. WILLIS: So actually putting in statute would be -- is it a liability issue then for the university? Would that be fair?

NICOLE FORNIER GELSTON: No, I don't. I don't see it as a liability issue. I think the statute mandates that the university take certain steps. And arguably, as written, take -- requires the university to take those steps with respect to an employee in the example I

just gave, such as providing professional assistance and seeking a restraining order, for instance.

So now the university may be in a position where they have to provide an employee who has some, unrelated to employment at home issue, you're mandating the university as that person's employer to provide all of the things enumerated in the proposed legislation.

REP. WILLIS: Any other questions or comments from members of the committee?

I just would like to --

How do I -- do I say Chief O'Connor?

BARBARA O'CONNOR: Sure. Barbara works.

REP. WILLIS: Okay, Chief. That sounds pretty good.

We're really excited to, by the way, have a woman chief of police. So not to be biased or anything, but I think that is very exciting. And I also think at some level it brings a certain sensitivity to the issues that we're trying to grapple with. So we really look forward to that.

Is there anything in this bill that you feel should be changed in any way or strengthened? Or do you feel there's a piece that's missing and we move forward on this? Or --

BARBARA O'CONNOR: Well, I think we discussed some of the concerns. I think the umbrella issue of helping women or people who are victims of violence is, you know, something we want to do as a law-enforcement agency regardless of, in

terms of the jurisdiction of where it happens, we would facilitate getting that particular victim the help they need.

I think the concern is mandating certain requirements that go beyond the traditional jurisdictional law enforcement response, from my standpoint, especially as it concerns employees. But I certainly think, you know, the concept, we support the concept of the bill and I think we'd be willing to, you know, have conversations about, you know, some tweaking that needs to go on to get to the end result that all of us want.

REP. WILLIS: Thank you. That would be most helpful.

Yes, Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE: Thank you, Madam Chair.

I just want to welcome you to UConn as well and we're really happy to have you come with a wonderful resume. And we just -- we appreciate it. We were really glad this hearing worked because we understand you have a particular expertise. So we'd really appreciate those tweaks to make this the best bill it can be from someone who has a deep understanding of some of these challenging issues that happen on campus.

BARBARA O'CONNOR: Well, thank you.

And I should say it's a thrill for me to be at the University of Connecticut in Connecticut. I think it's a fabulous institution and I look forward to working with all of you.

REP. WILLIS: I also want to recognize

Representative Haddad who represents the University of Connecticut in his district.

So Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD: Yeah. I just wanted to take the opportunity to thank you as well and to welcome you to Connecticut and to the University of Connecticut and to Storrs. We're very excited about continuing the relationship between the town and UConn Police Department.

There are a lot of activities of mutual interest, let's say, for us to work on together. Some of them are infamous and some of them are more mundane and routine.

But thank you very much for your testimony and it's great to have you here.

BARBARA O'CONNOR: Thank you.

REP. WILLIS: Senator Boucher.

SENATOR BOUCHER: Thank you, Madam Chair.

And I also welcome you, Chief O'Connor. It's a pleasure to have you be here. And also to certainly testify, which is really important based on the fact that I believe that universities, particularly university police departments and staff are under particular scrutiny nationwide for some egregious situations that have occurred in other places that you know full well.

But also the fact that it can be seen that even if staff follow the protocol and the rules set up on campus, that oftentimes just following those rules may not be the

appropriate response and may actually get to a point of severity where you have to call in law enforcement. And knowing the balance of that while preserving a school climate that is positive, but yet protecting the victims as a number-one priority and keeping your university safe, either from outside perpetrators or unfortunately at times internal perpetrators as well.

So I understand and we all understand the hard, very difficult job and role that you play in doing this and we're very pleased to see you here at the helm.

BARBARA O'CONNOR: Thank you.

REP. WILLIS: Well, thank you again and thank you also for working when you're not even on the payroll yet. So --

BARBARA O'CONNOR: Thank you. It's a great opportunity to meet you all.

REP. WILLIS: Okay.

BARBARA O'CONNOR: Take care. Thanks.

REP. WILLIS: Take care. Thanks.

Commissioner Marshall, Department of Labor.

Good morning, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER GLENN MARSHALL: Good morning, Senator Bye, Representative Willis, Senator Boucher and members of the Higher Education Employment and Advancement Committee.

Thank you for your opportunity to provide you with testimony in support of three bills on

SB291
SB292
SB41

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**HIGHER EDUCATION
AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT
PART 3
736 - 1104**

2012

rgd/gbr HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT 11:00 A.M.
ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

ETHAN SENACK: Thank you.

REP. WILLIS: Thank you.

Michelle Cruz from the state victim advocate
office.

MICHELLE CRUZ: Good morning. My name is Michelle
Cruz and I'm the state victim advocate for the
office of Victim advocate.

Good morning, Senator Bye -- who I think just
left for a moment -- Representative Willis and
distinguished members of the Higher Education
and Employment Advancement Committee. Thank
you for the opportunity to provide testimony
concerning House Bill Number 5031, AN ACT
CONCERNING SEX ASSAULTS AND VIOLENCE ON
COLLEGE CAMPUSES.

As you are aware, in 1996 Connecticut
residents overwhelmingly supported the passage
of a victims rights amendment to our
Constitution. Among the state constitutional
rights of crime victims is a right to be
treated with fairness and respect and the
right to be reasonably protected from the
accused. As such, institutions of higher
education in the state has a responsibility to
ensure the rights of crime victims are
protected and those working or attending the
institution are informed and aware of the
rights and services available to crime victims
should the unfortunate occur.

College campuses are a microcosm of our larger
community and as such crime is equally present
on our college campuses. The State
Constitution, by the way, covers all crime
victims including employees as well as student
crime victims.

Prior to taking my role as the state victim advocate I was a prosecutor in Massachusetts within a community with several colleges. What struck me as a prosecutor was that more often than not the crime victim would disappear after arraignment of the crimes involving assaultive behavior that occurred on a college campus. When I inquired as to the status of the victim I was often told the victim had either relocated or chose internal disciplinary procedures at the institution. Without a victim to testify the case would often fold.

When I took the position of a state victim advocate I went to many of our colleges and universities and I learned we have varying responses to our college campus crimes and varying knowledge of crime victims rights on our college campuses.

Why? Think of it this way. Any business would be concerned if its paying customers were alerted that the use of their facilities or services could put them or their children in the path of crime. Colleges and universities are ultimately a business looking to make a profit. The unintended consequence of reporting crimes accurately on our college campuses is that the institutions may lose their customers.

This has led to certain institutions discouraging reporting of assaultive crimes to authorities. We at the OVA have heard it time and again. The bottom line is we're talking about the safety of our children and our communities. This bill will ensure the protections afforded to crime victims who are also students.

It is imperative that those who provide services to our students in the aftermath of crime are cognizant of the responsibilities under the State Constitution and aware of the services available to crime victims. In order for this to occur two things need to transpire. One, House Bill Number 5031 must become law with the proposed amendments by the OVA and, two, our state colleges and universities have to get honest about crime on campus.

House Bill Number 5031 is an acknowledgment that institutions of higher education can improve their policies, trainings and awareness of crime victimization on campuses. There is a current disconnect between the status of state victims rights in Connecticut, the treatment by staff at institutions of higher education and the student crime victim.

The OVA detailed some of the difficulties faced by student victims in the OVA's victims summit report in November of 2011. The attached amendment offered by the Office of Victim Advocate furthers the intent to ensure that administrators, faculty and students are informed of the rights and services of crime victims and aware of the institutions' policies and procedures for reporting criminal activity. The ultimate goal being that our institutions of higher education in the state foster an environment that is safe for its employees and its students.

The amendments include simple but vital tools, such as signages regarding victims services to enhance the treatment and protection of crime

rgd/gbr HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT 11:00 A.M.
ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

victims on college campuses. These suggestions mirror the State Constitution.

The new section 2 of the OVA's proposed amendment calls for the establishment of a task force to study and implement a statewide best practices policy for institutions of higher education concerning the student crime victim population on campuses. In some cases, especially those involving sex assault there are many troubles related to victimization that require consideration for the student crime victim's safety and ability to continue on the course of their academic studies. The development of a task force to study these issues and make recommendations will address the barriers faced by some of the students and victims that have suffered due to the lack of awareness and training within our higher education environment.

I strongly encourage the committee to consider the OVA's proposed amendments to enhance the measures of House Bill Number 5031, and in doing so, Connecticut would take the lead in its protections of our college and university students.

Thank you for your consideration and I can answer any questions you may have.

REP. WILLIS: Thank you.

Questions or comments from members of the committee?

We don't have your -- did you submit testimony?

MICHELLE CRUZ: I believe we did this morning if you don't have a copy of it.

rgd/gbr HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT 11:00 A.M.
ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

REP. WILLIS: Okay. Because I don't have your proposals written out. So that's a little difficult for me to --

But since you have submitted them --

MICHELLE CRUZ: Okay. I mean, I also have a copy of it with me.

REP. WILLIS: Okay. Well, maybe we'll just leave it, if there's no questions or comments, that we can contact you.

MICHELLE CRUZ: Okay.

REP. WILLIS: That would be helpful.

MICHELLE CRUZ: Okay. Thank you.

REP. WILLIS: Okay. Any other? Thank you.

Asad Hussain.

ASAD HUSSAIN: Chairwoman Bye, Chairwoman Willis and honorable members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of H.B. Number 5362.

I am in support of this bill and for what it means to the people who will be helped by it. College remains the accepted path for 68 percent of high school graduates, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In 2010 the average student loan debt for a college student was \$25,250, up 5 percent from the previous year according to a study by the Project on Student Debt.

The total student debt we have in this country

But we have thousands of folks in the state of Connecticut that do not have diplomas. We have thousands and thousands of people that are unemployed and underemployed that have diplomas that don't have the skills to go in these programs. And that's really who I'm here advocating for and who I've advocated for, for the last, you know, 39 years to be honest with you.

REP. JANOWSKI: Well, you've done a great job. Just keep it up. Thank you.

RICHARD TARIFF: Well, thank you. Thank you. Thank you very much.

REP. WILLIS: Thank you. Your testimony is very helpful and we're going to review it as we move --

Oh, I'm sorry. Representative? No? Okay.

Thank you.

RICHARD TARIFF: Thank you very much. It's my pleasure.

A VOICE: (Inaudible.)

REP. WILLIS: Hi, Ann. Nice to see you.

ANNA DOROGHAZI: Hello. Good to see you.

Senator Bye, Representative Willis, members of the committee, my name is Anna Doroghazi and I'm the director of public policy and communication at Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services.

HB5031

CONNSACS is a statewide coalition of nine

community-based rape crisis service programs that provide sexual assault crisis counseling and victim services to men, women and children of all ages. We also convene the Connecticut College Consortium Against Sexual Assault, which is comprised of sexual assault victim advocates and representatives from nine Connecticut colleges and universities. Based on our participation or our partnerships with colleges and universities and our work with sexual assault victims we strongly support House Bill 5031.

The problem with sexual violence on college campuses is well documented. And in recent years colleges and universities have made progress in addressing the issue. In Connecticut many campuses have worked diligently to identify best practices, update policies related to sexual assault and create coordinated campus responses to sexual assault.

As you heard earlier, UConn in particular has been at the forefront of building partnerships in trying to tackle the issue of sexual violence on campuses. For more information about some of these efforts I'd like to direct your attention to the written testimony of the Connecticut College Consortium and Bethany Hamilton from CONNSACS.

While these efforts have improved conditions on campuses more needs to be done. Institutions throughout the country base their sexual assault prevention and response policies on guidelines set forth in the Clery Act, a federal law that was mentioned in previous testimony. While the Clery Act is a good starting point for campus policies, more can and should be done in Connecticut to

ensure that campuses do more than the bare minimum when it comes to preventing and responding to sexual violence. House Bill 5031 proposes sensible measures to improve upon existing Clery Act standards and address the ongoing issues that researchers, victims and advocates have identified as problematic.

Our written testimony includes a chart that delineates current Clery Act requirements and highlights how House Bill 5031 will improve upon these existing regulations. While all of the changes proposed in the bill would promote safety and improve how campuses respond to sexual violence, we'd like to offer specific feedback on the provisions relating to disciplinary proceedings and education.

Existing guidelines for campus disciplinary proceedings are vague and interpretations vary greatly from one institution to another. Unlike the Clery Act, House Bill 5031 clearly advises campuses that disciplinary proceedings must be conducted by an official who is trained in issues relating to sexual assaults and intimate partner violence and that such proceedings shall use the preponderance of evidence standards.

It is frankly shocking that such standards do not already exist. In Connecticut criminal courts, for example, rape carries a mandatory minimum prison sentence, yet when colleges and universities use their campus disciplinary proceedings to adjudicate this grave matter, they don't even have clear guidance on what standard of evidence to use.

Similarly both victims and alleged perpetrators should have the opportunity to

rgd/gbr HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT 11:00 A.M.
ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

present evidence and witnesses on their behalf, and at the close of proceedings be informed of the outcome in writing. House Bill 5031 would impose these standards, all of which go beyond the requirements of the Clery Act.

And I'll wrap up there in the interest of time. Thank you.

REP. WILLIS: Thank you.

The chart that you put in your testimony, that is really very helpful in terms of outlining what existing law is and what this bill will do to improve standards in Connecticut if this passes.

Your comments and your testimony regarding how some college campuses -- I'm not going to say in Connecticut, because this issue was brought to my attention because I read about a case in the Midwest, you know, that was very disturbing to me, that that situation transpired and wanted to ensure that that never happened in Connecticut.

So I appreciate your support on this issue and I certainly find the chart extremely helpful. And I'm sure the members of our committee, as we move forward with this, you know, appreciate that.

Any other questions or comments we have?

Senator Boucher and then Senator Bye.

SENATOR BOUCHER: Thank you, Madam Chair.

And thank you for your testimony. My question to you is that, do you find some resistance on

the part of college in general? Because instance of crimes on campus and reporting of such oftentimes makes the institution not look good. And it is one of those statistics that they don't like to see put out there because it might have a dampening effect, maybe even on applications and reputation and so on.

ANNA DOROGHAZI: Yeah. And I think that's a good point and it's something that we tell parents and families who we speak to and they look at the numbers that come out of the federal Clery Act is, you know, how -- it looks like this campus had a lot of reported crimes. I think a lot of that piece is just around education, that you want these crimes to be reported. That's saying that the students trust the system that they're reporting into and that the campus is meeting what they're required to do by federal law by actually making those reports.

So it is a bit of a catch 22 for universities, that when they do what they're supposed to do and when they are in compliance with existing laws, they do take some risks when it comes to public relations. And I think you're right that that's an issue.

SENATOR. BYE: Thank you, Senator Boucher.

Taking over for just a minute. I don't mean to take it from you, Chair. I thought you were discussing.

REP. WILLIS: No. No. No.

SENATOR. BYE: So Anna, I want to first of all just take a moment and thank you for your advocacy. You know, the young men and women in Connecticut, mostly women who suffer from

sexual abuse benefit from your advocacy, but I think some of what people miss is all the work you do in prevention.

I've been at some of your workshops that you put on for students and I think there are a lot of tips that you give young women about how to avoid this. And then also help students know where to go when they need support after a crisis, which this bill does, both for the kind of immediate supports they need, but then also so that these young women feel that they're getting an appropriate hearing in an appropriate amount of time so that they feel safe on their campus. And so I want to thank you for this advocacy.

And I can tell you, Representative LeGeyt and I, like my cochair, find this chart incredibly useful. And anyone who hasn't been to your advocacy training should be and this is exactly why you're so good at it, because this will help us as we work to improve this bill. So thank you so much for coming today.

ANNA DOROGHAZI: Thank you.

And just to piggyback a bit off of your comment, the prevention piece was what initially got us so excited about this bill, that it really marks a departure, first of all in what's required of the Clery Act. They mentioned that you need to do some kind of awareness education around the issue.

But the specified primary prevention training really takes a great step beyond that. That was the part that I didn't get to, but in our written testimony it kind of spells out what exactly is meant by primary prevention training and why that will be a really good

rgd/gbr HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT 11:00 A.M.
ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

benefit to students.

REP. WILLIS: Any other questions or comments from members of the committee?

I want to thank you so much, and CONNSACS for your work on this and for your help in moving this legislation forward.

ANNA DOROGHAZI: Thank you.

REP. WILLIS: Okay. Mary Delucia from Susan B. Anthony Project in Torrington, Connecticut. Yay. I give you preferential treatment. Welcome.

MARY DELUCIA: Thank you. Good afternoon, Senator Bye and Representative Willis and members of the committee. I would like to start by stating that I support of House Bill 5031, AN ACT CONCERNING SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES.

Approximately 3 percent of all college women become victims of either completed or attempted rape during the nine-month academic year, which is roughly translated into 35 crimes of sexual violence for every 1,000 women students. This number may not seem very high, but if you take a college campus of 20,000 women students, that means 700 of these women students will be victims of crimes of sexual violence.

House Bill 5031 will require colleges and universities to adopt and disclose policies regarding sexual assault and intimate partner violence. That includes written detailed reporting procedures for survivors on campus, supportive resources on and off campus for survivors and a written summary of

disciplinary procedures that affects both accuser and the accused. With this policy being accessible to students who are survivors on campus, victims of sexual violence will also -- will know and understand their rights as well as their concerns for their safety on campus. They will know and feel validated by the school officials.

Student survivors will also be aware of the school's policy and procedure regarding their perpetrator's rights and will be given a realistic view of the disciplinary procedures. House Bill 5031 will also require colleges and universities to provide primary prevention and awareness programming and education to new students and faculty members on campus.

In a recent survey of high school students 56 percent of girls and 76 percent of boys believed that forced sex was acceptable under certain circumstance. That means over 50 percent of incoming college freshmen had validated rape and attempted rape in some instances. That's a scary thought. By providing primary prevention and education programs to students and faculty on campus, the campus community will have a new perspective of attitudes and beliefs on sexual violence that includes what the legal definition of sexual assault is.

By creating a new community perspective of sexual violence on campus we can lower the potential rapes and attempted rapes each year at universities. In order to lower rapes and attempted rapes we need to let students and faculty know it is necessary and relevant to talk about the topic.

Can I just conclude with an experience of an

anonymous survivor of sexual violence, please?

REP. WILLIS: Absolutely.

MARY DELUCIA: Okay. There was a new student who started her first year of college and there was a staff member who had authority over students. The staff member sexually assaulted her multiple times. Due to either a lack of resources and support or a lack of awareness of resources and support for survivors on campus, the student did not feel safe enough to come forward about the perpetrator's multiple sexual assaults against her.

The student ended up dropping out of the university at the end of the year and she moved out of state. A year later she transferred to another university that was also out of state because she didn't feel safe coming back to that particular university. And it is not until now, years after she survived the crime of sexual violence committed against her that she feels safe enough to come forward about the sexual assault.

House Bill 5031 is needed on all colleges and campuses because sexual assault is on all commuter and residential campuses. And dropping out of school should not be in any student's (inaudible).

Thank you for your time.

REP. WILLIS: Thank you. I -- am intrigued by the experience of the survivor that you mention in your testimony. So was a -- happened at a Connecticut school? In Connecticut, this incident, in the state of Connecticut?

rgd/gbr HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT 11:00 A.M.
ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

MARY DELUCIA: It did.

REP. WILLIS: Okay.

MARY DELUCIA: Due to confidentiality reasons --

REP. WILLIS: No. No. I understand that. I just -- asking, I wanted to make sure that it was Connecticut.

And the second one it says, commuter campus, which do you happen to know if this particular campus had dorms?

MARY DELUCIA: I do not believe so.

REP. WILLIS: You don't believe so. Well, that would be something that we should think about, because one of the things we did in this bill is we didn't include -- I think that's the case -- we did not include community colleges because the fact they don't have dorms in most of these, you know, community college people come and go. And so there were some issues regarding how they would implement a program.

Okay. Well, I guess we'll have to think long and hard about how we move on this particular aspect.

So any other questions or comments on this testimony?

I want to thank you for coming out from Susan --

A VOICE: (Inaudible.)

REP. WILLIS: Excuse me?

A VOICE: (Inaudible.)

71

March 6, 2012

rgd/gbr HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT 11:00 A.M.
ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

REP. WILLIS: You did a great job. We're proud of you.

MARY DELUCIA: Thank you.

REP. WILLIS: Susan B. Anthony is a great organization.

MARY DELUCIA: Is that all? Okay. Thank you.

REP. WILLIS: Jennifer Wenderoth.

Welcome.

JENNIFER WENDEROTH: Welcome. Good afternoon.

Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Jennifer Wenderoth. I'm the campus advocate for the New Britain and Hartford Sexual Assault Crisis Service, a program of the YWCA, New Britain.

I'm writing to you not only from a professional standpoint, but a personal one as well, that being in total support of House Bill 5031, AN ACT CONCERNING SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON A COLLEGE CAMPUS.

While a student at Central Connecticut State University, I became a victim of sexual assault. Besides from the help I received from the school's women's center there was a lack of support and guidance offered from Central Connecticut. I had no clue where I would get my help on trying to see my perpetrator brought to justice. This was something I had to find out on my own.

Through my own dedication and determination to see that my perpetrator be held accountable, I

rgd/gbr HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT 11:00 A.M.
ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

faced many obstacles and eventually hit the point where nothing more could be done. During the time of my assault Central Connecticut had a 90-day policy in effect. This gives the school only 90 days to take disciplinary action against the perpetrator, and this was something I was not aware of.

I stayed on top of the school's police department who was handling my case and believed them when they said they would be sending my paperwork over to the school's judicial office and they would now take over and be responsible for any disciplinary actions. I waited two weeks and never heard anything. Summer came and went and still nothing.

I went back to Central Connecticut in the fall and contacted the judicial department because the police said they were no longer involved. When I met with the judicial department they said they were never sent my paperwork and since the school was closed over the summer the 90-day policy took over and nothing could be done.

On top of all of this, when I requested my paperwork regarding my assault I was told that it could not be found. Central Connecticut lost all the information about my sexual assault including the report from my evidence collection kit. The school would not do anything because the 90 days was over and I could not do anything on my own since I could no longer get my information.

I spent the rest of my time at Central Connecticut watching over my shoulder. My perpetrator was allowed to follow me around campus, sit two tables away from me in the

caff, hang outside my dorm room at all hours of the night and experience a normal college life, while I lived one in terror or fear, 24/7.

Today while I advocate for college victims of sexual assault the 90-day policy may no longer be in effect, but there are still many obstacles that stand in the way for the victims to be able to receive the support, guidance and direction that is needed for justice and recovery.

House Bill 3051 can make a difference in so many victims' lives. It will allow them to know that -- about the procedures ahead of time, to know how to seek justice against a perpetrator, to keep their identity confidential, to know that they are not alone. This will allow them to finish out their college education without living in fear. It will allow them to move from a victim to a survivor.

(HB5031)

I thank you for your time and hope you join me in the support of House Bill 3051 as a life-changing piece of legislation. Thank you.

(HB5031)

REP. WILLIS: Thank you for your very, very powerful testimony -- and disturbing. And I'm sorry this happened to you.

How long ago did this occur, if you don't mind my asking?

JENNIFER WENDEROTH: It happened May 5, 2004.

REP. WILLIS: Okay. That long ago?

JENNIFER WENDEROTH: Uh-huh.

rgd/gbr HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT 11:00 A.M.
ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

REP. WILLIS: And in your work, in your professional role doing the sexual assault crisis services for the Y, and since Central is in New Britain, do you see students in your position?

JENNIFER WENDEROTH: I do see a lot of students at Central actually. The majority of my students are -- that I work with are from Central Connecticut.

REP. WILLIS: Okay. And I'm sorry. I'm just so kind of speechless at the point, this point now. It's really hard for me to react.

Obviously it's one thing to do, you know, a bill like this and have a proposal. It's quite another to have a face and a voice on a situation like this. So it makes it all the more important, for me anyway, and explains why we need to do this.

Questions or comments from members of the committee?

Senator Bye.

SENATOR. BYE: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Jennifer, I really want to thank you for your courage. I'm sure it's not easy to be here and know that -- I think everyone sitting up here is so sympathetic and so disgusted with the lack of respect that you received as a student in crisis. And the work that you're doing on this bill I believe will help make a difference, but please accept my apology, I'm sure, our apology. That should never happen. And I just want to thank you and give you a lot of credit for the internal drive that you

have had to get through this challenge and come out on the other side and help other women who may be in this position.

I'm the mother of a daughter in college now, another going next year and I talk to them about this worry every mother and father has for their daughter when they're heading off. And I think this bill is important and I think in Connecticut we want to be stronger than the federal law and we want to put our colleges and universities on notice that this won't be accepted.

So thank you so much for your courage.

JENNIFER WENDEROTH: Thank you.

SENATOR. BYE: Thank you, Madam Chair.

REP. WILLIS: Representative LeGeyt.

REP. LeGEYT: Thank you Madam Chair.

Welcome to our committee today.

JENNIFER WENDEROTH: Thank you.

REP. LeGEYT: I want to concur with the statements that have already been made about the level of courage that it takes for you to come here and share your story, most pertinent to what we're trying to do here on this committee and I commend you for the way that you have survived that.

You work for the YWCA in New Britain?

JENNIFER WENDEROTH: Correct.

REP. LeGEYT: And forgive me. Your function there?

JENNIFER WENDEROTH: I'm a campus advocate with the Sexual Assault Crisis Services.

REP. LeGEYT: So you have an organized liaison with Central Connecticut?

JENNIFER WENDEROTH: Yes, I'm the campus advocate. Central is one of over a dozen colleges I work with in the Hartford/New Britain area.

REP. LeGEYT: so, you know, that prompts -- my question was, why do so many victims, sexual assault victims from Central come to the YWCA in New Britain? And you sort of answered that, but if you wanted to share.

JENNIFER WENDEROTH: I think it's because we're only three miles from Central Connecticut and I work very closely with the counseling service in the women's center on campus. I'm also part of their sexual assault response team. And I think it's just very well known about the SACC services on that campus, more so than some of the others.

I mean, I do work closely with -- another school is Trinity College. There's a dozen of them, but Central is the one that I work with, the closest, seeing that it is only three miles away.

REP. LeGEYT: And so one of the other questions I had, I'll ask it. Is the fact that the YWCA, through you, takes an active role and a big part in helping victims of sexual assault at Central, mean that their particular response and policies and program to do the same is lacking, and therefore you're involved? Or are you involved as a result of their program? And would you comment on what you think their

program is like?

JENNIFER WENDEROTH: The YWCA's program?

REP. LeGEYT: No. Central.

JENNIFER WENDEROTH: Central's? I think Central is trying to take a step in the right direction, but I think just like all schools there's a lot more that can be done. I think there's definitely flaws in the system. I think it's very hard, especially with the different committees on the campus. They try and work together, but in some ways it feels like they are working against each other. And that's not only at Central, Connecticut.

I see it with some of the other colleges as well. I think the reason may be why it works so closely with Central and seeing that victims aren't left alone is because I was left alone as a student at Central Connecticut.

REP. LeGEYT: And your trauma is actually doubly -- I'm doubly sympathetic to your trauma because, not only were you assaulted by a perpetrator, but you also -- maybe the term isn't "assaulted," but you were ignored by the very program that was supposedly in place to help you through something like that. My sympathies go out to you.

JENNIFER WENDEROTH: Thank you.

REP. LeGEYT: And you appear to be recovering well from it.

JENNIFER WENDEROTH: Uh-huh. From the support of my family.

rgd/gbr HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT 11:00 A.M.
ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

REP. LeGEYT: Yeah.

Having read through this bill, do you -- what you think it does to fill in the gaps?

JENNIFER WENDEROTH: I think it helps students who are victims when they have questions. I know myself, when there was nothing more I could do when I sat down with the chief of police at Central, they said, sorry. Ninety days are up. You can try and get a restraining order, but good luck, they're hard to get. There was no offer there on how to go about one or what he meant by how hard it is.

Now today I know they're not that hard to get, but some guidance on how to go about getting it instead of just being told, go and get one, or -- but, good luck, they're hard to get -- would be helpful. So I know part of the bill is letting people know about restraining orders and how to get one. I mean, that's a great tool.

I work with multiple victims on how to get restraining orders for their safety. Something as little as a piece of paper does make a difference.

REP. LeGEYT: So being a victim yourself and advocating and assisting other victims that come forward, you're a perfect person to give comment about this bill and its faults and its gaps or its strengths. So I'm sure I speak for everybody on the committee; we appreciate that very much.

And I thought I had another question, but it escapes me. Thank you for your testimony today.

JENNIFER WENDEROTH: That's okay. Thank you.

REP. WILLIS: Further questions or comments?

Thank you very much.

Krystal Rich.

KRYSTAL RICH: Senator Bye, Representative Willis and honorable members of the committee, my name is Krystal Rich and I'm the adult advocate for the Sexual Assault Crisis Service, a program of the YWC in New Britain as well as alumni from Central Connecticut State University.

As one of the adult advocates for an organization that serves primary and secondary victims, secondary sexual assault victims in the Hartford County, Plymouth and parts of Tolland County, I've seen firsthand the horrendous effects this crime has on survivors and their supports. Today I'm speaking to you as, not only the adult advocate for SACS but as a survivor who was sexually assaulted at Central Connecticut state University while I was a student there.

Based on my work as an advocate and as someone who has experienced sexual violence on a college campus, I would like to offer support for House Bill 5031, AN ACT CONCERNING SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES.

As a survivor of sexual assault during my time at CCSU I recognize the importance of what resources are available, what a university's disciplinary process is and how to form a safety plan. When I was assaulted in February of 2010 I was not aware of what resources were available to me and as a result, was bounced

from department to department.

I also did not realize that at the time CCSU did not even have a sexual assault policy to protect me and as a result, I had to jump through hoops to resolve my case and never even knew if I was being treated fairly. I was later told by a university official that if I hadn't gone to the police they would still have kept my perpetrator employed at the university.

In terms of safety planning I was forced to walk to classes while my perpetrator walked freely across the campus. It was not until I pushed that he was no longer allowed in the building where my classes are located. Since 2010 CCSU has taken a lot of steps to address some of the problems that came to light during my case. However there is still a lot of work that needs to be done.

Being sexually assaulted is traumatizing enough and there's no reason why students should not be given all the information of available resources, information on the disciplinary process or help with safety planning. I know that having this bill would push schools to get the information out there to students as well as working on prevention efforts to stop this crime before it even occurs.

A research study that I was involved in conducting at CCSU in the fall of 2011 found that over 32 percent of the 2900 students who had completed the survey had experienced some form of sexual violence in their lifetime. When asked if they had a sexual assault experience, did they report it? 23 percent said they did not because they felt nothing

would be done about it. And 21 percent felt that complaining about the situation would make it worse.

When asked if they would know where to go to report a case of sexual violence, 35.6 percent said that they did not know where to go. And an overwhelming 32 percent of the sample stated that they felt the university was not doing a satisfactory job in educating the students around sexual harassment or violence.

These numbers clearly show that there's a lack of information provided to students despite the fact that many students are being affected by this crime at our own local university.

Can I just wrap up?

REP. WILLIS: Take the time you want.

KRYSTAL RICH: Okay. House Bill 5031 will be able to address the concerns of allowing students to have information on reporting as well as giving them information about their available resources by requiring this of the universities. Of course this bill will have an enormous impact by requiring universities to address primary prevention.

Primary prevention may indeed be the single most important piece because these programs aim to stop sexual violence before it even happens. Primary prevention can change the climate by teaching communities how to address perpetrator attitudes and behavior before they escalate to a violent act. Sadly, I know that if there had been more of a focus on primary prevention at CCSU prior to my assault there's a good chance I would not be sitting here today testifying as a victim.

rgd/gbr HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT 11:00 A.M.
ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

I hope that you can see how imperative this bill is in stopping sexual violence from happening before another assault occurs on one of our college campuses. Thank you for considering this important piece of legislation. I hope you will join me in support of H.B. 5031.

REP. WILLIS: Well, thank you, Krystal, as well for coming forward to have the courage to share your story.

I must say it was difficult and shocking to listen to Jennifer's story, but then to hear two of them and within two years, I'm sure everyone on this committee is boggled that this could go on on one of our campuses.

I can assure you that, not only will we be moving ahead now we have more resolve to move ahead with something like this, but I don't know how by cochair deals, but I plan to meet with the university immediately after this meeting. This is just something that cannot even wait for this bill to pass, as far as I'm concerned.

KRYSTAL RICH: Can I just comment on something?

REP. WILLIS: Yeah -- well, before I blow.

KRYSTAL RICH: The research study that myself and a professor on the campus conducted in the fall showed some alarming results in terms of the number of students that have experienced sexual assault, the lack of knowledge of resources they have on the campus.

They don't know where to go. When they have gone they've had bad experiences. People are

tossed back and forth. People aren't aware that there wasn't even a policy in place so I think it's a larger problem than we're even aware of.

REP. WILLIS: You know, as I started looking into this issue probably over a year ago, the statistics were what jumped off the page for me.

Certainly hearing that this went on on college campuses and that actually schools -- not here in Connecticut, but the articles and stories that I was reading, there actually was a cover-up for, you know, the reasons that were described by some of the other people who have testified, and that's schools don't want that information out there publicly because of the way it -- people would perceive the school, that they're looking to send their child there or even alumni looking to contribute to the school.

Again, I want to thank you. I know there are other comments and questions from members of my committee.

Senator Bye.

SENATOR. BYE: Thank you so much, Krystal, for coming forward.

KRYSTAL RICH: Thank You.

SENATOR. BYE: And I think that in a lot of ways college campuses -- so there -- a lot of young people are a reflection of attitudes in our whole culture, and that's one of the most alarming things. I'm with Representative Willis about getting on the phone to Central.

And I have to say, this initiative is all Representative Willis' last year, something that she was frustrated with what was happening federally, that it wasn't enough and they were having challenges passing enough, and that we should take action. And as I've come to understand it, it's just been -- it's been mind blowing.

But I think your three testimonies together, Mary's, and then Jennifer's and that yours tell a story. Representative LeGeyt and I were in shock when Mary gave the statistic that 56 percent of girls and 76 percent of boys believe that forced sex was acceptable under certain circumstances. So if that high a percentage think that this is okay, there's a big problem in this world right now.

KRYSTAL RICH: Absolutely.

SENATOR. BYE: And so, you know, it just took my breath away when I heard that number. And then you think about people not knowing where to go when something happens and take that higher than 50 percent number and think, oh, was this my fault? Or was this really okay? And all those things that creep in when something bad happens that, by any objective measure, was wrong -- creep in and knowing the fallout from that.

So I think as I listen to you three, one of the most important things that this bill does is to get people in their very young adult years and say, you know what? You're on notice. These are the rules. This is what's acceptable. This is not. If you work here, if you live on this campus, if you go to school here, you're going to know the ground rules right away.

And right now, from what you two have said and from what Mary said from Torrington, that's just not the case.

KRYSTAL RICH: No. And I would say at Central specifically I know there's no, like, mission statement against it. There's nothing that every department of the university stands up and says, yes. We are against these attitudes.

You may have one department that says that's not acceptable and another department that's a little bit more lenient. And because of the politics on the college campuses, which I'm sure happen everywhere, like Jenny had stated, it just stops any action from happening.

And people are getting mixed messages. If something is okay over here and it's not okay over here, well, they're still going to do it.

SENATOR. BYE: Right. Right. Well, we have control over the college campuses, not over the whole culture, but we're certainly going to use that opportunity to make people aware of what's acceptable and unacceptable.

And I just wanted a clarification, and only if you're comfortable answering, but did you use the word "employee" to represent the person?

KRYSTAL RICH: I was sexually assaulted by the former chief diversity officer at Central in 2010.

SENATOR. BYE: Okay. So it was an employee. And again, this bill addresses employees and students and that's very important. And like I said to Jennifer, I am so sorry that someone

rgd/gbr HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT 11:00 A.M.
ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

that you trusted and were entrusted to would take advantage of that trust. And I thank you for the work that you're doing to help support other women who've had similar struggles who are very fortunate to have young people like you in Connecticut. So thank you.

KRYSTAL RICH: Thank you.

REP. WILLIS: Representative Sayers.

REP. SAYERS: Thank you.

From listening to your testimony you indicated that he continued to work there. Is he still employed?

KRYSTAL RICH: No. He actually -- I was told by the university of the -- or the president of the university that if I hadn't gone to the police -- which it actually happened -- part of it happened on campus grounds, but the actual assault itself happened in New Britain territory.

So what ended up happening was I originally wanted to go through the university's disciplinary process to try and let them resolve the case. When it wasn't happening I went off-campus and reported it to the police and it was only through the court proceedings at New Britain Court that he was then told that he was no longer allowed to teach in any capacity. And because of that he actually moved out of the country.

But had I not gone to the police station he would still be employed there today.

REP. SAYERS: It's embarrassing, to say the least. But thank you so much for coming here today.

KRYSTAL RICH: Thank you.

REP. WILLIS: Okay. Representative LeGeyt.

REP. LeGEYT: Thank you, Madam Chair.

And thank you, Krystal, for, like Jennifer having the courage to come here and share what I'm sure is a terrible experience.

Tell me again, you work for the YWCA in New Britain as well?

KRYSTAL RICH: Yes.

REP. LeGEYT: And how is your -- you said that you're a --

KRYSTAL RICH: I'm the adult advocate for the Sexual Assault Crisis Services in the New Britain territory.

REP. LeGEYT: Okay. So how is that different from what Jennifer does?

KRYSTAL RICH: Jennifer works with the colleges. So all the colleges, she'll see the students. If someone -- if an adult from New Britain comes forward, I see them.

REP. LeGEYT: I see. So my question -- and I tried to remember when she was up here and forgot -- is, you know, our bill adds to what the Clery Act covers by including intimate partner violence.

KRYSTAL RICH: Uh-huh.

REP. LeGEYT: And so my question is, of the population of people that you see and advocate

rgd/gbr HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT 11:00 A.M.
ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

for, do you have any sense of what percentage of those are the result of intimate partner violence?

KRYSTAL RICH: I don't know offhand the percentage of those that I work with at the Y. There is a large number of people who are assaulted by their partner.

In terms of the research that I actually conducted at Central, there's an overwhelming amount of students that have been sexually assaulted by an intimate partner during their time at the university. I believe it was over 25 percent.

REP. LeGEYT: Because one of the issues with this issue is that people choose not to report.

KRYSTAL RICH: Uh-huh.

REP. LeGEYT: And I'm just guessing and you may be able to confirm -- but perhaps not able to, but I would sense that the percentage of people who are uncomfortable reporting about intimate partner violence would be higher than the percentage of people who hesitate to report about being assaulted by a stranger or some -- such as what occurred to you.

Could you confirm that? Do you have any information about that?

KRYSTAL RICH: I would say it's tough because there are a lot of assaults we know from the statistics, that actually the majority of people who are assaulted are assaulted by someone that they know, whether it be an intimate partner, a friend, a coworker, an administrator, you know, whatever.

I think it's hard in any of those situations if you know the person. I think it's hard for people who don't know the person because they're fearful. A lot of things come up. But when you know someone, whether it's your intimate partner or not I think it's tough. I know in my specific situation if it hadn't been for the support I had from my faculty advisor and other faculty members in the department I would have never reported my situation because of those same fears.

So I don't know if I can say that it's more, but I would definitely say that there's a lot of other variables that come into play when someone knows their perpetrator.

REP. LeGEYT: Right. Right. Okay.

Thank you again for coming today. Thank you for expressing this concern to us. And I respect you for your courage and forthright presentation and I'm very sorry that this has to happen and that we have to have this proceeding, but clearly it's long overdue.

KRYSTAL RICH: And I know at Central, I mean, they are pushing forward to make change, but I think a bill like this would really put things in perspective.

SENATOR. BYE: Senator Boucher followed by Representative Ackert.

SENATOR BOUCHER: Thank you very much, Madam Chairman.

And I also concur with the many statements that have just been made by our committee to you. What I did want to recognize is the fact that you and others that have come forward

have been very brave and courageous to describe and put on record your own personal experiences.

But you all -- you both have also used your experience for good. In other words, you've transferred the tragedy that's occurred in your own personal life to help others so that this isn't continuing. And it appears that you also are getting some cooperation on the part of some members of the educational community, which is commendable.

KRYSTAL RICH: Yes. Uh-huh.

SENATOR BOUCHER: But it appears from what you've stated that there's more that can be done that would make it more consistent and uniform throughout, that actual policies should be put in place.

It is unfortunate however that we have to entertain such a bill here that it hasn't already been undertaken by the education, higher education institutions out there. So I thank you for that. And if you wish to comment any further, you certainly may.

KRYSTAL RICH: I would definitely say that, yes, there are people who have cooperated. And especially at Central now there are a number of people across that campus, including some administrators who are definitely pushing forward. I think the problem is, is that, like I stated earlier, the politics on campuses and the different views kind of put things at a halt.

And that's why I feel that this bill is so important because it can empower the people who do want to make a difference on the campus

rgd/gbr HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT 11:00 A.M.
ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

to push forth with the things they do want to do, but are stopped by these blocks. So that's how I would comment on that.

SENATOR. BYE: Senator Boucher asked a good question. What are the blocks?

KRYSTAL RICH: I think that there's a lot of territory issues on campuses. I think that, you know, from -- in the past sexual, assault or (inaudible) violence is, you know, handled by a few departments instead of spreading that education awareness around the entire campus.

And the problem doesn't come from the people who know about it. It's the people that aren't educated on it. There's been a number of students after my case came forward that actually reported being sexually assaulted or sexually harassed by my perpetrator, but they went to the wrong people and it was never reported.

And that's what I mean by this bill pushing for resources, for knowledge, for the entire campus community to be on the same page. So those are the blocks that I'm talking about it.

SENATOR. BYE: Yeah. And nothing like a coordinated system to sort of make a difference where everybody knows the deal.

Representative Ackert has a question.

REP. ACKERT: Thank you, Madam Chair.

And thank you Krystal for your -- for being here today and your advocacy. We truly appreciate your efforts.

KRYSTAL RICH: Thank you.

REP. ACKERT: My question comes through -- as a parent that went through, with my daughter, through orientation on school campus. And I don't recall the conversation at all regarding -- you know, as part of the orientation we talked about the map layout. We talked about policies -- but I don't remember that conversation regarding what would happen in this case and them saying that we have a strong policy against these acts.

Do you know of anything in -- during orientation that is being taken on at this time?

KRYSTAL RICH: I can actually give you a personal expense that I've had with that. No. There have been several years where I think they put on -- they hired people to do, like, an act of -- to show what are acceptable behaviors and what are not. They do not make a statement about their policy, first of, because their policy hasn't even been put into place, and that's part of the reason.

Second of all, is because there is this idea that parents are not going to want to send their children to school if we talk about sexual assault because sexual assault doesn't happen if you don't talk about it, I guess. So that's kind of the idea.

Since my assault I ended up getting involved in the sexual assault resource team on campus and I had a lot of support from the administrators on that as well as the rest of the committee members. I did some tabling during orientation and during advising days. And we have this tablecloth and it said,

sexual assault resource team.

So I went to reserve a table to -- free -- my own time, on my own time to sit there and advertise what the SART team was doing. I was told by someone at the school that I needed to turn the tablecloth upside down because if parents saw that it set sexual assault they wouldn't want to send their children there. Since then I've been told by other university officials that that will never happen again since the results of our study came out and they've realized that there's a tremendous need -- and the Penn State case. But that's what I was told.

REP. ACKERT: Thank you. And a parent going through orientation, I would be actually impressed --

KRYSTAL RICH: -- right.

REP. ACKERT: -- if I knew that the campus had a strong anti, you know, anti-sexual assault policy in place. I think it would be a selling point to me.

KRYSTAL RICH: Well, I actually asked parents what they thought of our table, because I ended up not turning the tablecloth upside down. And I made notes of every -- what every parent said and I typed that sheet up and gave it to the administrators. And parents were very pleased that they saw information and actually dragged their students over to the table so that they could receive the brochures.

REP. ACKERT: Thank you.

Because I think it also goes for a parent of a young man going in there essentially saying,

rgd/gbr HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT 11:00 A.M.
ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

these are not appropriate actions. And letting them know right up front that, you know, yes, you're going to a new environment, you know, but what happened in our home, those policies continue right through. You know, we don't -- this is not appropriate.

So thank you again for your testimony. I appreciate it.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

KRYSTAL RICH: Thank you.

SENATOR. BYE: Thank you, Representative Ackert.

And I thank you for your civil disobedience in that case. And I know certainly that, as a parent of children in college, that it's probably underneath one of the biggest fears every parent has when they send their children to college.

KRYSTAL RICH: Uh-huh.

SENATOR. BYE: So you know, talking about it up front is saying that college is being proactive. So I'm glad that they changed that policy and that you're willing to take your free time to let folks know that you existed so people would know where to go and then they could get guidance. So hopefully this bill will improve things.

So thank you for your testimony today.

KRYSTAL RICH: Thank you very much.

SENATOR. BYE: Tom Phillips followed by Robert Clayton.

seem kind of small in the scheme of things, but it makes a difference. I'd love to thank Reps Haddad, Flexer and Rose for sponsoring this bill, which will help so many college students such as myself as well as those who have graduated and can use whatever financial assistance they can get.

Thank you for her the opportunity to testify.

REP. WILLIS: Thank you very much.

Any questions or comments?

Thank you. I hope you enjoy your time here at the Legislature.

COLBY HOFFMAN: I really am. This is my first testimony, too. So maybe many more to come.

REP. WILLIS: Great.

Brian Johnson. Welcome, Mr. Johnson.

BRIAN JOHNSON: Thank you. My name is Brian Johnson and I would just like to thank the committee for giving me the opportunity to testify today. I am currently attending UConn School of Social Work pursuing a master's degree in social work policy. As a requirement I must testify at a public hearing.

HB5031

I currently intern at Hartford Action Plan, located in the north of Hartford. One of my many tasks at this agency is researching the prevalence of teen dating violence.

Sexual abuse and sexual assault are part of a culture of violence against women on college campuses. I have a wealth of statistical data

on the pervasiveness of sexual assault against young women and I am confident that this committee has done its due diligence and is aware of the magnitude of such violent crimes. Sexual assaults occur too often on college campuses in Connecticut and across the country, but today I am going to speak as a father. Like any father, I want the best possible life for my child.

I can remember coming home and hearing the rattling of toys as my daughter would play in her room. Once she heard the door close she would stop playing and would run as fast as her little legs would go and three steps out, leap into my arms. When I dropped my daughter off in late August, 2010, at Southern Connecticut State University I knew she would no longer leap into my arms from three steps out.

On October 15, 2010, my daughter ran into my arms, this time in the office of the campus police department, unable to lift her head off my shoulder because of the horrific sexual assault which occurred a day earlier. My daughter had no knowledge of how to respond to a sexual assault. She did not report the incident immediately, instead she told a friend what happened, who convinced her to report the assault later that day.

When she did report the incident, my daughter was victimized again by an unsympathetic clerk at the campus police department. The police department employee began to question my daughter as if she were the perpetrator and not the victim. After a brief interview with the officer on duty and a referral to campus counseling center my daughter then went back to her dorm.

My daughter was not aware of any protocol which could have helped in convicting the male student who assaulted her. The police detective who investigated my daughter's assault had no doubt the assault took place. The detective also had no evidence and was not able to bring charges against the young male who assaulted my daughter. The student was allowed to remain on campus.

And in May, 2011, the same student who assaulted my daughter assaulted another female on the grounds of Southern Connecticut State University. He was arrested by campus police and then expelled.

As a father, a social work student and a citizen of Connecticut, I hope this legislation, House Bill 5031 is passed. I feel it will provide the necessary tools for students who are victims to protect themselves and to help prosecute the perpetrators of these violent crimes.

REP. LeGEYT: Thank you, Brian, for your compelling testimony.

I would share that it's terrible to be the victim and, only in a mildly secondary aspect, it's terrible to be the parent of a victim. And I sympathize with you and I am pleased that you chose to come and share that testimony here today.

Any questions from --

REP. WILLIS: Yeah. Thank you.

I want to thank you for coming here today. It's been a very difficult afternoon to hear

some of this testimony today.

I think it's -- your daughter is very lucky to have someone like yourself who -- a father who, you know, comes here to tell a story like this and obviously is working to change this culture. But I want to thank you for coming here today.

And as I said earlier, we are going to be meeting with the university. We want to know what they've done since these incidents at -- well, it's what I mean. It's the whole CSU system we're talking about here -- to see where they're at today, what policies they may have enacted, what they're doing to ensure that these incidents don't happen again on our state universities. So your testimony is not in vain.

Yes, Representative LeGeyt.

REP. LeGEYT: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Brian, just as an aside -- and not as an aside, just my own interest. Was the perpetrator, aside from being expelled, was anything else -- did he suffer any other judicial issue?

BRIAN JOHNSON: I know initially he was arrested. I don't know what the disposition of or the outcome of that case was. My daughter has since left Southern Connecticut. So her assault happened in the beginning of the year. This one happened right at the end of the year.

We did meet with campus police who were very accommodating and very helpful, but just their hands were tied with what they could do. So

she decided not to go back. So we didn't pursue it anymore. So I'm not sure if the student was convicted of any crimes.

REP. LeGEYT: Thank you.

Some of the -- a couple of the other people who have given testimony about their experiences in this same regard shared how frustrated they were at the process at Central and how they were discouraged from taking any action or claiming any action be taken.

Did you share in your testimony, or would you share if that was the case with your daughter?

BRIAN JOHNSON: It was more what they were able to do and to not do. Absolutely the detective that investigated my daughter's case wanted to have the student expelled, but the whole evidentiary thing was preventing that and some of the rights --

Basically what happened with my daughter, that she was unwilling to do. And I can understand having recently traced that trauma, was you have to testify at a hearing where both herself and the perpetrator would have been in the room. So it would have been very invasive and my daughter did not want to go through that.

And that was kind of coupled with some of the advice that the detective was saying. Basically -- not the detective -- the chief, he was saying, well, it comes down to a he-said-she-said, the student was a football player and all these other circumstances.

The detective was a female and she was advocating very vigorously for my daughter,

but the entire situation or the constraints, similar to what the other lady testified about his, like, he had, like, competing interests almost.

REP. LeGEYT: Thank you.

But you are saying that at no point was your daughter discouraged from pursuing this claim are coming forward? Because some of the testimony from Central was that there was, you know, no real cooperation or encouragement. And you're not saying that that was the same thing at Southern?

BRIAN JOHNSON: I would say initially when she first reported it, yes, but once -- and that was another issue in a speech to kind of what happened after the incident, which is she was assaulted in the daytime and didn't report it until after hours, so to speak, around eight o'clock that night.

So there was a clerk there that basically took a statement and then the next day the detective got involved. So there was -- she didn't know what to do. She showered, so she didn't know about rape kit and all of that information. So that prevented, like, DNA and all of that. So that basically, you know, it came down to like the detective said, that he-said-she-said.

They did get a restraining order against the student, but the hearing part about having him expelled and my daughter didn't want to go through the whole testifying against him and all that stuff.

REP. LeGEYT: Thank you very much.

BRIAN JOHNSON: You're welcome.

REP. WILLIS: Thank you.

Krista Kingsbury.

KRISTA KINGSBURY: Good afternoon. My name is Krista Kingsbury. Thank you for letting me speak for House Bill Number 5031, AN ACT CONCERNING SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES, and proposed amendments by the OVA.

In today's society there's a push for the current generation to become better than the previous one, to seek higher education and make a path for oneself. Currently unbeknownst to most parents or guardians, the college campus is one of the last institutes that does not have legislation to protect its inhibitors.

It is a sad fact to comprehend that most incarcerated inmates have more rights than a current college student. My name is Krista Kingsbury. I'm a central Connecticut State University alumni, criminology class of 2011.

I'm fully aware of this institute's shortcomings in protecting victims of crime when it comes to sexual assault, not only firsthand, but secondhand as well. Is this experience that has propelled me to make a voice, my voice heard, especially in the interests of those who don't have the strength to speak out or feel overlooked.

If a university can adhere to making classroom changes for those with learning disabilities or promote a healthy learning environment for those of a different religion, then they most certainly can make exceptions for, not only

victims of sexual assault, but all victims.

It is time for the word "victim" to stop being associated with being weak, but use it as a starting point to change the future. If a victim makes the decision to follow through with their goals and ambitions, a university should do all that they can to help them, instead of dismissing them or making them feel that their assaulter has more power over them.

With most crimes reported against those who are ages 18 to 24 and statistics like one in four women and one in six men who are assaulted on college -- I'm sorry, one in six men, assaults on a college campus are like a breeding ground for crime. So why not protect this population and put themselves out there -- who put themselves out there to one day contribute to society?

Please see me here today. Feel my strength and just think, I could be your sister, I could be your daughter, I could be your friend or just even a peer, but what would you do to protect them?

REP. WILLIS: Thank you so much, Krista.

Questions or comments from members of the committee?

Yes, Representative Rovero.

REP. ROVERO: Thank you for coming today.

As a father of four and a grandfather of eight children, sexual assault has always been very concerning to me. And I look at it and I say, we also far ahead of the curve on so many items, but when it comes to this we're so far

behind. It's unbelievable. And thank you for coming forward and testifying. And I think this is a bill that's about 20 years behind times.

But we also, not only have to pass this bill, we have to enforce it. Because as long as we let people think that they can get away with anything, they're going to continue to do it. And the day that we stop and we start prosecuting people for the crimes such as this is the day I think you're going to think twice before doing it. And thank you once again for testimony.

And thank you, Madam Chairman.

REP. WILLIS: You're welcome.

And thank you. The amazing thing I was thinking as Representative Rovero was speaking is if you think that people are coming forward today and having the courage to do that in about the most public way you possibly could, it just tells you how many more people must be out there, that you'd have people willing to step forward and discuss this.

So I want to thank you today for caring and sharing your concerns.

KRISTA KINGSBURY: If I could just comment on a couple of other points, not suggested by others?

Just in my firsthand and secondhand, it just seems kind of ridiculous the police department universities and the town that sponsors a campus will fight over whose jurisdiction it is. And so if the time it takes to fight over jurisdiction can be resolved and a case can be

prosecuted that much faster, I think that would help a lot of victims be put at peace right away.

And then the rights of off-campus students who maybe have met their assaulters on campus are at even much more risk than students living on college campuses, because even though the act may have been propelled from campus, it is now the town's jurisdiction. And once again it will go back to my first suggestion that they're fighting over jurisdiction.

And then, you know, the classroom empathy and practices need to change the way a victim is treated, point blank. And so this bill will help in aiding that definitely.

REP. WILLIS: Yes, Representative LeGeyt.

Oh, that was a good point, though, that jurisdiction would have to --

REP. LeGEYT: You make some compelling comments and raise some real issues for us.

And did you say you have a degree in criminal --

KRISTA KINGSBURY: Yes. I have a degree in criminology and it was --

REP. LeGEYT: Excuse me. Criminal what?

KRISTA KINGSBURY: Criminology.

REP. LeGEYT: Criminology.

KRISTA KINGSBURY: Yeah. And it was -- I was almost dumbfounded at the fact that the one major on-campus, or the one office on campus

that should have the best knowledge with the criminal procedure in dealing with victims had the least amount of empathy or sympathy for somebody going through it.

REP. LeGEYT: And did you say that you went to Central?

KRISTA KINGSBURY: I did.

REP. LeGEYT: Yeah. And so on a firsthand basis I'm sorry that that happened to you. And on a secondhand basis, for obviously your friends, other acquaintances that you know, would you like to comment on how you think this bill will help?

KRISTA KINGSBURY: I mean, for me I guess being a victim was the bottom line of me needing to become a survivor. And so I know that I have more strength than most people who have been through my situation. I did not even have, you know, a support system at all.

And so to make a decision to stay in school and not let this event affect my life for the long-term, even though it ultimately has, I think I should have been commended. And I've seen secondhand the way people make a decision to change their path and that's their decision, but it's those people that I'm here today representing.

REP. LeGEYT: Well, let me take a quick opportunity to commend you myself for coming here and being so forthright and courageous to share what must be a terrible struggle to get past if that ever occurs.

Were you encouraged to not pursue this at all?

KRISTA KINGSBURY: This bill or my education?

REP. LeGEYT: No. Your experience. Not pursue --
correction. No. Follow-through.

KRISTA KINGSBURY: With what had happened to me?

REP. LeGEYT: At Central.

KRISTA KINGSBURY: I encouraged myself because I
really felt that I was treated unfairly and
that my victim had more power and more right--
I mean, my prosecutor -- perpetrator had more
power and rights than I did.

And I went -- I took all the necessary acts or
steps to change what had happened to me within
the university, I mean, up to the dean of my
school who sat across from me and looked me in
the eye and told me that I was just angry with
the university and that wasn't the case. It's
still not the case today. If I was angry with
the university I wouldn't have put money into
my education to stay there.

REP. LeGEYT: So the bravery that you showed today
has existed for a much longer time than just
now.

KRISTA KINGSBURY: I think it's even shown itself
more since the whole incident has happened.

REP. LeGEYT: Yeah. But what you are saying is
that your own resolve in not letting this slip
away undetected or unresolved or unnoticed was
not helped at all by --

KRISTA KINGSBURY: Being told no.

REP. LeGEYT: Yeah. And other things that Central
could have or should have done based on the

policy that they had at the time and that's troubling, very troubling.

And I guess I would speak for the committee here, that we are so appreciative of you making the time and taking the deep breath to come here and share that with us. Thank you so much.

KRISTA KINGSBURY: Thank you.

REP. WILLIS: Susan Schnitzer.

SUSAN SCHNITZER: Hi. Thank you, Representative Willis and members of the committee. My name is Susan Schnitzer. I'm a director of grants and programs at the Center for Women and Families in Bridgeport. We're a dual sexual domestic violence agency and I'm here speaking to you today in support of House Bill 5031, AN ACT CONCERNING SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES.

Our agency works very closely with the universities in our area, University of Bridgeport, University of Fairfield and Sacred Heart University, specifically as campus grant partners, community initiative partners and partners on bringing awareness about sexual and partner violence onto the campuses.

Though these collaborations we've seen some struggles that face both students and university administration when it comes to preventing and responding to sexual violence. Campuses often shy away from discussions of sexual violence, preferring to deal with the issue privately and internally. This tendency can send the wrong messages to students who need to understand that it's okay to talk about sexual assault and that help is

available to them both on and off campus.

Challenges also arise when working with the public safety offices. They're not always clear on policies regarding their relationship between campus safety and law enforcement, as previous speakers have talked about. And this can often result in frustration and confusion for the victim and the university. This bill will help address both of those challenges.

And in addition, by requiring primary prevention program and awareness activities on campus universities will have to openly acknowledge the prevalence of sexual violence on their campus communities. Although this may seem like a small step, it will go a long way in letting students know that violence is not an anomaly, it is not their fault when it occurs and help is available to them, again both on and off campus.

Creating consistent policies that ensure students are afforded the same legal, civil and human rights as the general public through their schools, these policies about reporting procedures will also benefit students by requiring universities to clearly define their relationship between campus security and local law enforcement and help break the silence concerning sexual assault on university campuses.

It's all too common, and as indicated in statistics -- and everyone's enclosed testimony today, we can see that.

A couple of things I just wanted to add, that I know there's been a lot of students and a lot of testimony here regarding one particular university. I went to college over 20 years

ago and I can tell you that in my college experience, friends, family from 25 years ago until present day, it's prevalent on all college campuses.

We had great representation from Central and the issues there, but I would really encourage you to look at all of the universities because it happens everywhere. It's happened for a very, very long time.

And I'm sorry, I don't have both my contacts in today, but one of the Representative gentleman sitting over here said, it's very concerning and it's -- I think it's more than 20 years too late that we really put policies in place.

We are a member agency of CONNSACS and we as such work on primary prevention starting from kindergarten. So we have a great chance in this state of when these kids are getting to schools, kids are staying in Connecticut going to school, that they have had some work within their schools about healthy relationships, boundaries, prevention of intimate partner violence, interpersonal violence, sexual assault, what's appropriate and what's not. And it's only appropriate that we, as workers, as public officials, as workers in this arena provide college campuses that are safe and appropriate and responsive to the students.

And again, I'd also like to agree with, not just preventing -- not just speaking to victims, but are preventing perpetration and to give both men and -- the young men and young women the tools to understand what appropriate behavior is for them so to give out to others.

REP. WILLIS: Thank you. And I appreciate your comments about 20 years ago and today. It's just that you always feel that with all the raised awareness around some of these issues that we've gotten better and I think we have on many fronts. But the fact that, you know, we're looking at these statistics and we're seeing how prevalent it still is. It's really disturbing.

And as someone just said to me interestingly, you know, about today's culture and what's acceptable. And you know, we have a national controversy now about something that was said to a college student and that has caused, you know, a national uproar. But it is this culture of, you know, what's accepted and what's tolerated. And I think we're saying on this committee we just -- we want to be a no-tolerance state on our universities.

So thank you.

SUSAN SCHNITZER: And I wanted to thank you for bringing this up, too. Because just having this be a prevalent piece of legislation that's going through the House and going through the Senate here and allowing us to come and testify really pushes it into the forefront. And that's when results -- you get results, is when you start talking about it. More survivors come out, more supporters who come and speak out against allowing this violence to happen. That's how big change happens. So thank you.

REP. WILLIS: No. I really give a lot of credit to the people who came here and who spoke out from personal experience. I don't know if I could ever have the strength to do something like that. That really is -- takes a special

individual.

SUSAN SCHNITZER: I definitely agree.

REP. WILLIS: Thank you.

Samantha Bayuk.

SAMANTHA BAYUK: Good afternoon, Representative Willis and honorable members of the committee. My name is Samantha Bayuk and I am domestic violence and sexual assault advocate at the Center for Women and Families of Eastern Fairfield County. I'm speaking today in support of House Bill 5031, AN ACT CONCERNING SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES.

I'm here not only as an advocate, but also as a recent college graduate who has had the unfortunate experience of being the victim of sexual violence on one of the campuses I attended. Through my own personal experience I have witnessed firsthand the lack of training given to college officials who make up judicial boards for campus crimes.

In my own case I was assaulted as a freshman. Scared, unsure and feeling completely alone, I kept the incident to myself until the following year when my perpetrator attempted to rape my best friend. After coming forward I was blamed left and right. Why did I keep it to myself? Why didn't I report it right away? Why was I drinking and underage? These were all the questions shot at me rapid fire from a panel of college officials.

If House Bill 5031 is passed it would prevent a student like myself from being put in front of untrained officials and would give students better knowledge and awareness of resources as

well as give other students and college officials the knowledge of what a sexually violent crime is, not an intoxicated girl who regrets a decision, but a crime based on power and control.

In my work I have recently begun working with local universities on their sexual assault response teams and the biggest concern they have is the lack of funding for education awareness and prevention training for both staff and students. I sit here now as an advocate and survivor asking you for your support for this bill that could help prevent revictimization due do things like victim blame, and improper ideas about sexual violence.

Thank you.

REP. WILLIS: Thank you.

Any questions or comments?

Thank you for also sharing your personal experience and as I've said -- we've all said several times, you know, it's been quite an enlightening day for all of us and really gives us the passion to ensure that we do something here to Connecticut so there aren't other young people, students --

I mean, one of the things when you send your kids off to school, there's a level of expecting them to be safe. And we understand your, you know, they're adults, young adults, but at the same time as a parent -- huh. That there's a level of protection that a university is providing to its students.

So Representative LeGeyt.

REP. LeGEYT: Thank you, Madam Chair.

And thank you, Samantha, for coming here today and I want you to know that the fact that you're not the only person who has come here today and shared a traumatic experience like that -- in no way makes it seem less of a noble and courageous gesture on your part to do this. And I commend you for that.

SAMANTHA BAYUK: Thank you.

REP. LeGEYT: And I understand that it's extremely troubling to you and yet you seem to be --

Tell me a little bit about the Center for Women and Families. Is that an overlap for crimes of this sort against women? Or is it a separate -- do you get involved in this kind of thing with your work?

SAMANTHA BAYUK: We're a dual agency. We do domestic violence and sexual assault.

REP. LeGEYT: I'm sorry. I can't hear you. Could you --

SAMANTHA BAYUK: We're a dual agency. We're a sexual assault and domestic violence agency. We do crisis counseling, prevention and education awareness. It's the same center that Susan, who spoke before me, works at. And I'm one of the advocates, so I work directly with the victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

REP. LeGEYT: And so it's -- is it exclusive of college students or are college students a portion of your clientele?

SAMANTHA BAYUK: We work with children from ages five through adult, but I do have one client currently that is a university student from one of the local universities who was sexually assaulted.

REP. LeGEYT: Well, my compliments to you on the work that you've chosen to do. And thank you so much for coming here today.

SAMANTHA BAYUK: Thank you.

REP. WILLIS: I think you're the last person signed up to speak on 5031, the sexual assault, sexual violence on college campuses.

I just have one comment as we move onto another topic or before we move onto another topic.

It's very interesting this year. We did this bill, introduced it last year and we had very different kinds of testimony. We didn't have victims or survivors. We tended to have more of colleges coming forth and talking about the policies that are in place at their different schools. We heard from the consortium that talked about, as a group, all the colleges that were really actively working on this in a very positive proactive way.

Today it's been a different story. So more from the survivors and that has been, I think, the message that we will be leaving with today -- is a lot different than the place we were at last year. So I want to thank everyone for testifying on that bill, who testified on part of that bill.

I'm going to switch now to Bill 291.

rgd/gbr HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT 11:00 A.M.
ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

And I have here Tokuji Okamoto from Our Piece of the Pie.

Okay. Is there anyone else in the room that -- the hearing room who would like to testify and that did not sign up?

Is there anyone here who was signed up and was called but it's here now -- we missed? I will ask one more time. Anyone else who would like the opportunity, speak now or forever hold your peace.

With that I will close this public hearing.



Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc.

96 Pitkin Street • East Hartford, CT 06108 • Phone 860-282-9881 • Fax 860-291-9335 • www.connsacs.org

Testimony of Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services
In Support of HB 5031, An Act Concerning Sexual Violence on College Campuses
 Anna Doroghazi, Director of Public Policy and Communication
 Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement, March 6, 2012

Senator Bye, Representative Willis, and members of the Committee, my name is Anna Doroghazi, and I am the Director of Public Policy and Communication at Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services (CONNSACS). CONNSACS is a statewide coalition of nine community-based sexual assault crisis services programs that provide sexual assault counseling and victim advocacy to men, women, and children of all ages. During our last fiscal year, certified sexual assault victim advocates throughout the state provided hospital and court accompaniment, support groups, individual counseling, 24/7 hotline support, information, and referrals to over 5,700 victims and survivors of sexual violence. Our advocates work closely with many of Connecticut's colleges and universities, and four of our nine programs have dedicated campus advocates. CONNSACS also convenes the Connecticut College Consortium Against Sexual Assault (CCASA), which is comprised of sexual assault victim advocates and representatives from eleven Connecticut colleges and universities. Based on our partnerships with colleges and universities and our work with sexual assault victims, we strongly support HB 5031.

The problem of sexual violence on college campuses is well-documented. Research has consistently shown that up to 25%¹ of women will be victims of sexual violence during their college careers; most of these women will never report their victimization to law enforcement or campus authorities, and those who do are likely to feel re-victimized by the systems that they encounter. In 2010, the Center for Public Integrity released the findings of a year-long investigation into sexual violence on college campuses. The full report, which we highly recommend, is available online.² Major findings of the investigation include:

- "Students found 'responsible' for alleged sexual assault on campuses often face little or no punishment, while their victims' lives are frequently turned upside down."
- "Many student victims don't report incidents at all, because they blame themselves, or don't identify what happened as sexual assault."
- "Institutional barriers compound the problem of silence, and few (sexual assault victims) actually make it to a campus hearing. Those who do come forward, though, can encounter secret disciplinary proceedings, closed-mouth school administrations, and off-the-record negotiations."

In recent years, colleges and universities have made progress in addressing the issue of sexual violence on campus. In Connecticut, campuses have worked to identify best practices, update policies related to sexual violence, and create coordinated campus

¹ Hirsch, Kathleen. "Fraternities of Fear: Gang Rape, Male Bonding, and the Silencing of Women." Ms Magazine, 2000. 1(2) 52-56.

² "Sexual Assault on Campus: A Frustrating Search for Justice." The Center for Public Integrity. 24 February 2010. <http://www.publicintegrity.org/investigations/campus_assault/>

responses to sexual assault. These efforts have improved conditions on campuses, but more needs to be done. Institutions throughout the country base their sexual assault prevention and response policies on guidelines set forth in the Clery Act, a federal law that requires institutions to disclose information about crimes that occur on and around their campuses. The Clery Act also outlines minimum requirements for campus policies related to rape, acquaintance rape, and other sex offenses. While this is a good starting point for campus policies, more can – and should – be done in Connecticut to ensure that campuses do more than the bare minimum when it comes to preventing and responding to sexual violence.

HB 5031 proposes sensible measures to improve upon existing Clery Act standards and address the ongoing issues that researchers, victims, and advocates have identified on campuses. Attached to this testimony is a chart that highlights how HB 5031 will expand and improve upon Clery Act guidelines. While all of the measures outlined in this chart would promote safety and improve how campuses respond to sexual violence, we would like to offer specific feedback on provisions related to disciplinary proceedings and education.

Existing guidelines for campus disciplinary proceedings are vague, and interpretations vary greatly from one institution to another. HB 5031 clearly advises campuses that disciplinary proceedings must be conducted by “an official trained in issues relating to sexual assault or intimate partner violence” and that such proceedings “shall use the preponderance of the evidence standard.” In Connecticut criminal courts, for example, rape carries a mandatory minimum prison sentence – when colleges and universities use their campus disciplinary proceedings to adjudicate such a grave matter, it seems reasonable that they should, at the very least, have clear guidance on what standard of evidence to use. Similarly, both victims and alleged perpetrators should have the opportunity to present evidence and witness on their behalf and, at the close of the proceeding, should be informed of the outcome in writing. HB 5031 would impose these standards, which go beyond the requirements of the Clery Act.

HB 5031 also offers campuses guidance on what kind of sexual assault and intimate partner violence training should be provided to students and employees. The Clery Act requires “education programs to promote the awareness of rape, acquaintance rape, and other sex offenses.” HB 5031 specifies that programming should be primary prevention-based and include “an explanation of the definition of consent in sexual relationships and information concerning the reporting of incidences of such assault and violence, [and] bystander intervention and risk reduction.” When campuses do not have an established definition of consent, student behavior is held to a standard that may be unknown or that may change from case to case. The focus on primary prevention education is also promising – unlike traditional risk reduction education, which focuses on victim behaviors (don’t walk alone at night, don’t leave your drink unattended at a party), primary prevention addresses the behavior of potential offenders and encourages the entire community to hold others accountable for their attitudes and actions.

The new standards outlined in this legislation would greatly benefit Connecticut students, as well as the colleges and universities that they attend. We appreciate the Committee’s efforts to address sexual violence on college campuses, and we look forward to the successful passage of HB 5031.

Federal Clery Act (existing law) 20 USC § 1092(f)	Improvements Proposed in HB 5031 (Bold font indicates proposed changes)
Institutions shall develop and distribute a policy related to sexual assault <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intimate partner violence is not included 	In their annual uniform campus crime report, institutions of higher education shall adopt and disclose policies regarding sexual assault and intimate partner violence
Such policy shall include notify students “of existing counseling, mental health or student services for victims of sexual assault, both on campus and in the community” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact information does not have to be given • Advocacy, health, and legal services are not included 	Such policy shall provide students with “ contact information for campus, local advocacy , counseling, health , mental health and legal assistance services ”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restraining orders and protective orders are not mentioned in the Clery Act 	Policies shall include written information concerning the right of students to “ obtain a protective order, apply for a temporary restraining order or enforce an existing protective or restraining order ” Policies shall also provide provisions for “ honoring any lawful protective or temporary restraining orders ”
Policies shall include provisions for letting students know about reasonably available options for and available assistance with changing academic and living situations related to sexual assault. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provisions for employees are not mentioned in the Clery Act • Accommodations are not provided for victims who might work or share transportation with their offenders • Victims of intimate partner violence are not included 	Policies shall include provisions for letting students and employees know about reasonably available options for and available assistance with “changing academic, living, transportation or working situations” in response to sexual assault or intimate partner violence .
Policies shall include procedures for on-campus disciplinary action in cases of alleged sexual assault, which shall include a clear statement that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The accuser and the accused are entitled to the same opportunities to have others present during a campus disciplinary proceeding, and 2) Both the accuser and the accused shall 	Policies shall include a disclosure of institutional disciplinary procedures including clear statements advising students that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Accusers “shall have the opportunity to request that disciplinary proceedings begin promptly” 2) “Disciplinary proceedings shall be conducted by an official trained in

<p>be informed of the outcome of any campus disciplinary proceeding brought alleging a sexual assault</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Clery Act has no requirement for the prompt commencement of disciplinary proceedings • School officials who lead disciplinary proceedings are not required to have any training • There is no guidance as to what standard of evidence should be used in disciplinary proceedings • While students are entitled to “the same opportunities” to have representatives present during hearings, this could be interpreted to mean that neither student can have a representative present at a hearing • There is no stated right to present evidence or witnesses • While both the accuser and the accused must be informed of the outcome of disciplinary proceedings, the outcome does not have to be put in writing, and there is no timeline as to when students will receive this information after the conclusion of a proceeding 	<p>issues relating to sexual assault or intimate partner violence”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) Disciplinary proceedings “shall use the preponderance of the evidence standard in making a determination concerning the alleged assault or violence” 4) The accuser and the accused are entitled “to be accompanied to any meeting or proceeding” by an advisor of their choice and shall have “the opportunity to have others present during any disciplinary proceeding” 5) The accuser and the accused shall both “have the opportunity to present evidence and witnesses on their behalf during any disciplinary proceeding” 6) Both the accuser and the accused shall be informed in writing of the outcome of any disciplinary proceeding “not later than one business day” after the conclusion of such proceeding
<p>Each institution shall develop and distribute a statement of policy related to its “campus sexual assault programs, which shall be aimed at the prevention of sex offenses”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Clery Act does not require training or programming related to intimate partner violence • Primary prevention programming is not required, nor are schools required to define consent or train students on how to report violence 	<p>Each institution shall, within available resources, offer “sexual assault and intimate partner violence primary prevention and awareness programming for all students and employees that includes an explanation of the definitions of consent in sexual relationships and information concerning the reporting of incidences of such assaults and violence, bystander intervention and risk reduction” and “ongoing sexual assault and intimate partner violence prevention and awareness campaigns”</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no provisions related to confidentiality in the Clery Act 	<p>The identify of accusers and the accused in disciplinary proceedings “shall be kept confidential by the institution of higher education”</p>

Testimony of the Center for Women and Families of Eastern Fairfield County
In Support of **HB 5031**, An Act Concerning Sexual Violence on College Campuses
Samantha Bayuk, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Advocate
Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement, March 6, 2012

Senator Bye, Representative Willis, and honorable members of the Committee, my name is Samantha Bayuk and I am a Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Advocate at the Center for Women and Families of Eastern Fairfield County (CWFEFC). CWFEFC is one of five dual agencies throughout the state of Connecticut that provides Domestic and Sexual Violence Victim Services and Prevention Education to residents of Eastern Fairfield County. These towns include Bridgeport, Easton, Fairfield, Monroe, Stratford and Trumbull. During the last fiscal year, CWFEFC provided services to 240 victims of sexual violence and their loved ones. In addition to providing crisis counseling services, we also work closely with colleges and universities in our area on education and prevention, as well as ensuring that victims/survivors on their campuses are able to acquire the services they need after an assault, in a fair and respectful manner. Based on that work, we would like to offer our support for **HB 5031**, An Act Concerning Sexual Violence on College Campuses.

Research has consistently shown that up to 25% of women will be victims of sexual violence during their college careers.¹ The majority of these sexually violent crimes are perpetrated by someone the victim knows. In fact, it is reported that 70%² of victims knew their attackers. The majority of attackers have been reported to be classmates or significant others³. Of these victims, most will never report, for a multitude of reasons, including, but not limited to the following: not wanting other people to know (47%), fear of being treated with hostility by the police (25%), fear of retaliation (40%), not believing that the incident was serious enough to report (65%), and not knowing how to report (14%).⁴

Currently at CWFEFC, we work closely with the colleges and universities in our area to build and improve their sexual assault response teams and policies. Most recently, we have had advocates and community educators on campus at Sacred Heart University and University of Bridgeport, attending their Sexual Misconduct and Response Team (SMART) and Sexual Assault Response and Prevention Team (SARPT), respectively, assisting in cleaning up and building response policies. Our Community Education department is currently working with Sacred Heart University (SHU) on developing a Consent Workshop to present to incoming

¹ Hirsch, Kathleen. "Fraternities of Fear: Gang Rape, Male Bonding, and the Silencing of Women" *Ms Magazine*, 2000: 1(2) 52-56.

² Dennison, Callie. Criminal Victimization 1998. Bureau of Justice Stats, DOJ

³ Fisher, B.S., F.T. Cullen, and M.G. Turner. "The Sexual Victimization of College Women" Washington, DC. U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics and National Institute of Justice, 2000, NCJ 182369. 19.

⁴ *Ibid*

Freshmen during their Orientation Weekend. From what we have seen, by working hand-in-hand with these colleges, is that many of them have limited resources to fund the necessary programming needed in order to raise awareness about prevention and consent. Due to the lack of budgeting allotted for these programs, most colleges and universities have outdated and fairly weak sexual violence prevention and response methods – this means that not only are students not aware of the resources available to them should they need them, but they also were not given the proper prevention education going in to their first year, or any time after. This lack of education, as we have seen on college campuses, has also led to many misconceptions about sexual violence, and victim blame, which can have a very large impact on whether or not a victim/survivor reports the assault.

HB 5031, if passed, would require colleges and universities to provide the primary prevention education that has been so lacking in recent years. What this means is that all incoming students, as well as new faculty and staff would be educated on the definition of consent, information about reporting sexual violence, the definition of bystander intervention and how you, as a bystander can help, and risk reduction. This bill would also provide room for ongoing sexual assault and intimate partner violence (IPV) prevention awareness campaigns. What this means is that not only would first year students be provided with the resources and education, but continued education and prevention would be available throughout their college careers. This continuation of education is an important key in keeping awareness up and helping to prevent further sexual violence on campus.

As an advocate, I have seen my fair share of cases involving college women who have been victims of sexual violence, both on and off campus. Most of these women are too afraid to come forward because they are afraid of the stigma, the potential for publicity and many times do not even know where to go to report. Most women, too, have stated they do not report because nothing had been done in prior cases on their campus that had been reported. I myself am a recent college graduate, and was enrolled in school during multiple sexually violent incidents that had been reported and improperly dealt with, not only on one but both campuses at which I had attended school. Through personal and professional experience, it has been made very clear to me that not only is there a lack of prevention education, but also a lack of proper disciplinary and judiciary proceedings on campus. Many campus judicial hearings often re-victimize the survivors who have come forward, which was the case in my own sexual assault hearing at the first college I attended. Without proper training of the campus officials holding the judicial hearings, many victims find themselves getting blamed for their own victimization. This then often causes them to have to hash out details in a very insensitive and emotionally painful manner.

HB 5031 is important because it would give students more resources as to where and how to report, as well as mandate that the disciplinary proceedings be conducted by a professional, trained in issues related to sexual and intimate partner violence. HB 5031 would also give

students enough resources to make them aware of how students are supposed to be treated during the proceedings. This would help students to better avoid being re-victimized by a campus trial and judicial process.

Giving students the resources, knowledge, and services they need, and deserve, in times of such personal violation, and in situations that raise so much potential fear of further harm and retaliation is incredibly important.

Thank you for considering this important piece of legislation. It is our hope, here at The Center for Women and Families of Eastern Fairfield County, that you will join us in supporting HB 5301.

Samantha Bayuk
Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Advocate
The Center for Women and Families of Eastern Fairfield County
Phone: (203) 334-6153 Extension 32
E-Mail: sbayuk@cwefc.org

Testimony of the Center for Women and Families of Eastern Fairfield County
In Support of HB 5031, An Act Concerning Sexual Violence on College Campuses
Susan Schnitzer, Director of Grants and Program Administration

Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement, March 6, 2012

Senator Bye, Representative Willis, and honorable members of the Committee, my name is Susan Schnitzer and I am the Director of Grants and Program Administration at the Center for Women and Families of Eastern Fairfield County (CWFEFC). CWFEFC is one of five dual agencies throughout the state of Connecticut that provides Domestic and Sexual Violence Victim Services and Prevention Education to residents of Eastern Fairfield County. These towns include Bridgeport, Easton, Fairfield, Monroe, Stratford and Trumbull. During the last fiscal year, over 4,600 adults, and children received crisis, advocacy, justice and specialized counseling and case management. Kathie's Place, our safe home for battered women, and their children shelter nearly 120 women, teens and children. Our Community educators teach over 6,500 school aged children and youth, adults and professionals about violence prevention, about understanding domestic and sexual violence and protecting children, and about best practices for working with victims and keeping children safe, respectively. During that same time period, CWFEFC provided services to 240 victims of sexual violence and their loved ones. In addition to providing crisis counseling services, we also work closely with colleges and universities in our area on education and prevention, as well as ensuring that victims/survivors on their campuses are able to acquire the services they need after an assault, in a fair and respectful manner. Based on that work, we would like to offer our support for HB 5031, An Act Concerning Sexual Violence on College Campuses.

Our agency works with faculty and students at the University of Bridgeport, Fairfield University, and Sacred Heart University as, respectively, a campus grant partner, a community initiative partner, and a partner in an annual sexual assault awareness walk. Through these collaborations, we have seen some of the struggles that face both students and university administration when it comes to preventing and responding to sexual violence. Campuses often shy away from discussions of sexual violence, preferring to deal with the issue privately and internally. This tendency can send the wrong message to students, who need to understand that it is okay to talk about sexual assault and that help is available for them. Challenges also arise when working with public safety. There are not always clear policies regarding the relationship between campus safety and law enforcement, and this confusion can result in frustration on behalf of both the victim and the university.

HB 5031 takes steps to address both of these challenges. By requiring primary prevention programming and awareness activities on campus, universities will have to openly acknowledge the prevalence of sexual violence in their communities. Though seemingly a small step, it will go a long way in letting students know that violence is not an anomaly, it is not their fault when it occurs, and help is available to them. Creating consistent policies ensure that student are afforded the same rights as the general public through their schools. These policies about reporting procedures will also benefit students by requiring universities to clearly define the relationship between campus security and local law enforcement and "break the silence" concerning sexual assault on college and university campuses.

Sexual violence is far too common on college campuses, as indicated in the statistics that I am enclosing with my testimony.

HB 5031 is an important step forward in providing the necessary prevention education, legal intervention and access to healing services for students related to sexual violence on campus. Thank you.

Susan Schnitzer

sschnitzer@cwefec.org

Facts and statistics related to sexual violence on college campuses:

- One in five women will experience rape or attempted rape in their 4-yr college career.
- Most survivors of sexual assaults are full-time students. Approximately 1/3 of them are first year students age 17-19.
- In a survey of 412 college students 11.7% of gay/bisexual males and 30.6% of lesbian/bisexual females women indicated they had been forced to have sex against their will at some point in their lives.
- 81% of women who were stalked by a current or former partner were also physically assaulted by that same partner.
- 80-90% of sexual assaults are perpetrated by individuals known to the survivors
- 85% of rapes are committed by a person the victim knows.
- In a recent study by the National Inst. of Justice, survivors of rape knew their attackers as: classmates (35.5%) friends (34.2%) boyfriend/ex-boyfriend (23.7%) acquaintances (2.6%)
- One in twelve college men admitted to committing acts that met the legal definition of rape.
- More than one in five men report "becoming so sexually aroused they cannot stop themselves from having sex" even though the woman did not consent.
- 35% of men report some likelihood that they would rap if they could be assured they would not be caught or punished.
- 81% of on-campus and 84% of off-campus sexual assaults are not reported to the police
- Fewer than 5% of attempted/complete rapes are reported to Law Enforcement.
- Nearly 60% of rapes occur in the survivor's residence halls.
- 52% of reported rapes/sexual assaults occur after midnight. 37% occur between 6pm and midnight.
- In a survey of students from 171 institutes of higher education, alcohol was involved in 74% of all sexual assaults.
- NCJRS found that historically black 4-yr institutes are doing better than other schools with preventative action/programming.
- 48.8% of college women who were victims of attacks that met the study's definition of rape did not consider what happened to them rape.

Testimony of Krystal Rich, Adult Advocate for the Sexual Assault Crisis Service of New Britain
In Support of HB 5031, An Act Concerning Sexual Violence on College Campuses
Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement, March 6, 2012

Senator Bye, Representative Willis, and honorable members of the Committee, my name is Krystal Rich and I am the Adult Advocate for the Sexual Assault Crisis Service (SACS), a program of the YWCA New Britain as well as an alumni from Central Connecticut State University (CCSU). As one of the Adult Advocates for an organization that serves primary and secondary sexual assault victims in the Hartford county, Plymouth and parts of Tolland county, I have seen first-hand the horrendous effects this crime has on survivors and their supports. Today I am speaking to you as not only the Adult Advocate for SACS, but as a survivor who was sexual assaulted at Central Connecticut State University while I was a student there. Based on my work as an advocate and as someone who has experienced sexual violence on a college campus, I would like to offer our support for HB 5031, **An Act Concerning Sexual Violence on College Campuses**.

As a survivor of sexual assault during my time at CCSU, I recognize the importance of knowing what resources are available, what a university's disciplinary process is, and how to form a safety plan. When I was assaulted in February of 2010, I was not aware of what resources were available to me and as a result was bounced around from department to department. I also did not realize that, at the time, CCSU did not even have a sexual assault policy to protect me and as a result I had to jump through hoops to resolve my case and never even knew if I was being treated fairly. I was later told by a university official that if I had not gone to the police they still would have kept my perpetrator employed at the university. In terms of safety planning, I was forced to walk to classes while my perpetrator walked freely across the campus. It was not until I pushed that he was no longer allowed in the building where my classes were located. Since 2010, CCSU has taken a lot of steps to address some of the problems that came to light during my case; however there is still a lot of work that needs to be done. Being sexually assaulted is traumatizing enough and there is no reason why students should not be given all of the information of the available resources, information on the disciplinary process, or help with safety planning. I know that having this bill would push schools to get this information out there to students as well as working on prevention efforts to stop this crime before it even occurs.

A research study that I was involved in conducting at CCSU in the Fall of 2011 found that over 32% of the 2900 students who completed the survey, had experienced some form of sexual violence in their lifetime. When asked, if they had a sexual assault experience did they report it: 23% said that they did not because they "felt nothing would be done about it" and 21% felt that "complaining about the situation would make it worse." When asked if they would know where to go to report a case of sexual violence, 35.6% said they did not know where to go. An overwhelming 32% of the sample stated that they felt that University was not doing a satisfactory job in educating the students around sexual harassment/violence. These numbers clearly show that there is a lack of information being provided to students despite the fact that many students are being affected by this crime at our own local University.

HB 5031 will be able to address the concerns of allowing students to have information on reporting as well as giving them the information about their available resources by requiring this

of the universities. Of course, this bill will also make an enormous impact by requiring universities to address primary prevention. Primary prevention may indeed be the single most important piece because these programs aim to stop sexual violence before it even happens. Primary prevention can change the climate by teaching communities how to address perpetrator attitudes and behavior before they escalate to a violent act. Sadly, I know that if there had been more of a focus on primary prevention at CCSU prior to my assault, there is a good chance I would not be standing here testifying as victim/survivor today. I hope that you can see how imperative this bill is in stopping sexual violence from happening before another assault occurs on one of our college campuses.

Thank you for considering this important piece of legislation. I hope that you will join me in supporting HB 5031.

Krystal Rich
Adult Advocate
Sexual Assault Crisis Service, a program of the YWCA New Britain
(860) 225-4681 x 214
krich@ywcanewbritain.org

H.B. No. 5031 AN ACT CONCERNING SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES.

I would like to thank the committee for giving me the opportunity to testify today. I am currently attending UCONN SSW pursuing a masters degree in social work policy. As a requirement I must testify at a public hearing. I currently intern at Hartford Action Plan, located in the north end of Hartford. One of my tasks at this agency is researching the prevalence of Teen Dating Violence. Sexual abuse and sexual assault are part of a culture of violence against woman on college campuses. I have a wealth statistical data on the pervasiveness of sexual assault against young woman. I am confident that this committee has done its due diligence and is aware of the magnitude of such violent crimes. Sexual assaults occur to often on college campuses in Connecticut and across the country.

Today I am going to speak as a father, like any father I wanted the best possible life for my child. I can remember coming home, and hearing the rattling of toys, as my daughter would play in her room. Once she heard the door close, she would stop playing and would run as fast as her little legs would go and 3 steps out leap into my arms. When I dropped my daughter off in late August 2010 at Southern Connecticut State University I knew she would no longer leap into my arms from three steps out.

On October 15, 2010 my daughter ran into my arms this time in the office of the campus police department, unable to lift her head off my shoulder because of the horrific sexual assault which occurred a day earlier. My daughter had no knowledge on how to respond to a sexual assault. She did not report the incident immediately instead she told her friend what happened who convinced her to report the assault later that day. When she did report the incident my daughter was victimized again by an unsympathetic clerk at the campus police department. The police department employee began to question my daughter as if she were the perpetrator and not the victim. After a brief interview with the officer on duty and referral to the campus counseling center my daughter then went back to her dorm. My daughter was not aware of any protocol which could have helped in convicting the male student who assaulted her. The police detective who investigated my daughter's assault had no doubt the assault took place, the detective also had no evidence and was not able to bring charges against the young male who assaulted my daughter. The student was allowed to remain on campus. In May 2011 the same student who assaulted my daughter assaulted another female on the grounds of SCSU and was arrested by campus police for that sexual assault.

As a father, social work student, and a citizen of Connecticut I hope this legislation, H.B. 5031 is passed. I feel it will provide the necessary tools for students who are victims, to protect themselves, and to help prosecute the perpetrators of these violent crimes.

STOP

Brian C. Johnson email: brian.johnson84@uconn.edu

Testimony of Susan B. Anthony Project
In Support of HB 5031, AN ACT CONCERNING SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON
COLLEGE CAMPUSES

Mary DeLucia, Sexual Assault Adult Advocate
Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement, March, 6, 2012

Good afternoon Senator Bye, Representative Willis, and distinguished members of the Committee. For the record, my name is Mary DeLucia, and I am the Sexual Assault Adult Advocate for Susan B. Anthony Project which is a member center of Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services providing support for sexual assault survivors of Litchfield County. I would like to start by stating that I am in support of HB 5031, An Act Concerning Sexual Violence on College Campuses.

Approximately 3 percent of all college women become victims of either completed or attempted rape during the 9-month academic year, which is roughly translated to 35 crimes of sexual violence for every 1,000 women students.¹ This number may not seem very high, but if you take a college or university campus with 20,000 women students on it, that means 700 of those women students will be victims of crimes of sexual violence! HB 5031 will require colleges and universities to adopt and disclose policy regarding sexual assault and intimate partner violence that include written detailed reporting procedures for survivors on campus, supportive resources on and off campus for survivors, and a written summary of disciplinary procedures that affects both the accuser and the accused. With this policy being accessible to survivors on campus, students who are victims of sexual violence will know and understand their rights as well as feel that their concerns for their safety on campus are validated by school officials. Student survivors will also be aware of the school's policy and procedure regarding their perpetrator's rights and will be given a realistic view of the disciplinary process.

HB 5031 will also require colleges and universities to provide primary prevention and awareness programming and education to new students and faculty members each year. In a recent survey of high school students, 56% of girls and 76% of boys believed that forced sex was acceptable under certain circumstances.² That means that over 50% of incoming college freshmen had validated rape and attempted rape in some instances. By providing primary prevention education programs to students and faculty on campus the campus community will have a new perspective of attitudes and beliefs on sexual violence, that includes what the legal definition of sexual assault is. By creating a new community perspective of sexual violence on campus we can lower the potential rapes and attempted rapes each year at universities and colleges. In order to lower rapes and attempted rapes we need to let students and faculty know that it is necessary and relevant to talk about this topic in order to maintain safety on campus.

¹ United States. Department of Justice. Office of Justice Programs. National Institute of Justice Sexual Assault on Campus: What Colleges and Universities Are Doing About It. Washington DC: December 2005.

² United States. Department of Justice. Office of Justice Programs. Violence Against Women Office. Grants to Reduce Violent Crimes Against Women on Campus. Washington DC: 2002. www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/182369.pdf

I would like to conclude by telling the Committee of one experience of an anonymous survivor of sexual violence on a commuter campus. A new student started her first year of college and there was a staff member who had authority over students. This staff member sexually assaulted the student multiple times. Due to lack of resources and support, or lack of awareness of resources and support for sexual assault survivors on campus, the student did not feel safe to come forward about her perpetrator's multiple sexual assaults against her. The student ended up dropping out of school at the end of that year and moved out of state. A year later, she transferred to another university out of state because she did not feel safe returning to that particular university. And it is not until now, years after she survived the crimes of sexual violence committed against her, that she feels safe enough to come forward about the sexual assault.

HB 5031 is in need on all college and university campuses because sexual assault happens on commuter campuses as well as residential campuses. Women students who go to college are more likely to be victims of rape than their counterparts who don't go to college.¹ Let's keep campuses safe for students by validating these concerns about campus crimes of sexual violence with a written policy for every school to follow. Let's change the campus community's perspective on sexual assault by offering education and awareness programming to new students and faculty. Yes, it is a scary crime to talk about, but it needs to be talked about in order to understand how to end it. Dropping out of school should not be in any student's safety plan.

Thank you for your time.

Mary DeLucia
mdelucia@sbaproject.org

Testimony In Support of HB 5031 AN ACT CONCERNING SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON
COLLEGE CAMPUSES

Allison Demers, Intern and Student

Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement, March 6, 2012

Senator Bye, Representative Willis and respected members of the Committee, my name is Allison Demers and I have interned at Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc. (CONNSACS). I am also an undergraduate at the University of New Haven, where I am studying Forensic Psychology and Victim Services. I stand firmly behind SB 847: An Act Concerning the Elimination of Sexual Violence on College Campuses because the issue of sexual violence is one of great importance to my peers, my co-workers, and me.

When a parent sends their child to a university, it is with the trust that the institution will serve and protect each and every student to the best of their ability. It is the duty of the university to ensure the safety of all attendees, and if they fail to do so they must be there to support the victim in any way possible. SB 847 would not only be beneficial in the preventative aspect of sexual assaults on campuses, but also in the aftermath of the attack. Many victims feel that not enough is being done for them after they file a complaint, and not enough support is being given during and after the judicial process. Isn't it traumatic enough being a victim of a violent attack, let alone having to be victimized again by intimidating judicial hearings?

Based on the conversations I have had with university police and counselors it is clear that they, too, believe there is more to be done for the victims of these attacks, and for the education of the campus population concerning preventing sexual violence. SB 847 would assist universities and colleges in finding the most beneficial way to approach both the preventative education and supportive environment for a victim during the aftermath. Many victims that do not have the proper counseling post-attack cannot cope with the trauma and may not be able to recall specific details and happenings conducive to investigation. It is apparent that Connecticut universities need guidance in this area and SB 847 would provide just that. It would provide appropriate training for counselors and officers, which can lead to a better facilitated recovery process and ultimately a more conclusive investigation.

I believe that SB 847 will be extremely beneficial to all colleges and universities in the state of Connecticut and I hope you can join me in supporting this legislation as we continue to strive for a safer state.

Thank you,

Allison Demers

Email: ademe2@unh.newhaven.edu

Testimony of Jennifer Wenderoth
In Support of HB 5031, An Act Concerning Sexual Violence on College Campuses
Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement, March 6, 2012

Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Jennifer Wenderoth. I am the Campus Advocate for the New Britain and Hartford Sexual Assault Crisis Services, a program of the YWCA New Britain. I am writing to you, not only from a professional stand point but a personal one as well, that being in total support of HB 5031 An Act Concerning Sexual Violence on College Campuses.

While a student at Central Connecticut State University I became a victim of Sexual Assault. Besides from the help I received from of the schools Women's Center there was a lack of support and guidance offered from Central Connecticut. I had no clue where I could get help on trying to see my perpetrator brought to justice, this was something I had to find out on my own. Through my own dedication and determination to see that my perpetrator be held accountable, I faced many obstacles and eventually hit the point where was nothing more I could do.

During the time of my assault, Central Connecticut had a 90 day policy in effect, that gives the school only 90 days to take any disciplinary action against the perpetrator, and this was something I was not aware of. I stayed on top of the school's police department who was handling my case and believed them when they said they would be sending my paperwork over to the school's judicial office and they would take over and now be responsible for any disciplinary actions. I waited two weeks never heard anything. Summer came and went and still nothing. I went back to Central Connecticut in the fall and I contacted the judicial department because the police said they were no longer involved. When I met with judicial they said they were never sent my paper work and since the school was closed over the summer, the 90 day policy took over and nothing could be done. On top of all of this, when I requested the paperwork regarding my assault I was told that it could not be found, Central Connecticut had lost all the information about my sexual assault including the report from my evidence collection kit. The school would not do anything because the 90 was over, and I could not do anything on my own since I no longer could get my information.

I spent the rest of my time at Central Connecticut watching over my shoulder. My perpetrator was allowed to follow me around campus, sit two tables away from me in the café, hang out outside my dorm room at all hours of the night, and experience a normal college life, while I lived one in terror and fear 24/7.

Today while I advocate for college victims of sexual assault, the 90 day policy may no longer be in effect, but there are many obstacles that stand in the way for them to be able to receive the support, guidance and direction that is needed for justice and recovery. HB 5031 can make difference in so many victims' lives, it will allow them to know about the procedures a head of time, to know how to seek justice against their perpetrator, to keep their identity confidential, to know that they are not alone. This will allow them to

finish out their college education without living in fear. It will allow them to move from victim to survivor.

I thank you for time and I hope you join me in the support HB 5031 as it is a life changing piece of legislation.

Jennifer Wenderoth
Campus Advocate
(860) 225-4681 Ext. 257
Fax: (860) 225-7443
JWenderoth@ywcanewbritain.org

Testimony of Krystal Rich, Adult Advocate for the Sexual Assault Crisis Service of New Britain
In Support of HB 5031, An Act Concerning Sexual Violence on College Campuses
Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement, March 6, 2012

Senator Bye, Representative Willis, and honorable members of the Committee, my name is Krystal Rich and I am the Adult Advocate for the Sexual Assault Crisis Service (SACS), a program of the YWCA New Britain as well as an alumni from Central Connecticut State University (CCSU). As one of the Adult Advocates for an organization that serves primary and secondary sexual assault victims in the Hartford county, Plymouth and parts of Tolland county, I have seen first-hand the horrendous effects this crime has on survivors and their supports. Today I am speaking to you as not only the Adult Advocate for SACS, but as a survivor who was sexual assaulted at Central Connecticut State University while I was a student there. Based on my work as an advocate and as someone who has experienced sexual violence on a college campus, I would like to offer our support for HB 5031, An Act Concerning Sexual Violence on College Campuses.

As a survivor of sexual assault during my time at CCSU, I recognize the importance of knowing what resources are available, what a university's disciplinary process is, and how to form a safety plan. When I was assaulted in February of 2010, I was not aware of what resources were available to me and as a result was bounced around from department to department. I also did not realize that, at the time, CCSU did not even have a sexual assault policy to protect me and as a result I had to jump through hoops to resolve my case and never even knew if I was being treated fairly. I was later told by a university official that if I had not gone to the police they still would have kept my perpetrator employed at the university. In terms of safety planning, I was forced to walk to classes while my perpetrator walked freely across the campus. It was not until I pushed that he was no longer allowed in the building where my classes were located. Since 2010, CCSU has taken a lot of steps to address some of the problems that came to light during my case; however there is still a lot of work that needs to be done. Being sexually assaulted is traumatizing enough and there is no reason why students should not be given all of the information of the available resources, information on the disciplinary process, or help with safety planning. I know that having this bill would push schools to get this information out there to students as well as working on prevention efforts to stop this crime before it even occurs.

A research study that I was involved in conducting at CCSU in the Fall of 2011 found that over 32% of the 2900 students who completed the survey, had experienced some form of sexual violence in their lifetime. When asked, if they had a sexual assault experience did they report it: 23% said that they did not because they "felt nothing would be done about it" and 21% felt that "complaining about the situation would make it worse." When asked if they would know where to go to report a case of sexual violence, 35.6% said they did not know where to go. An overwhelming 32% of the sample stated that they felt that University was not doing a satisfactory job in educating the students around sexual harassment/violence. These numbers clearly show that there is a lack of information being provided to students despite the fact that many students are being affected by this crime at our own local University.

HB 5031 will be able to address the concerns of allowing students to have information on reporting as well as giving them the information about their available resources by requiring this

of the universities. Of course, this bill will also make an enormous impact by requiring universities to address primary prevention. Primary prevention may indeed be the single most important piece because these programs aim to stop sexual violence before it even happens. Primary prevention can change the climate by teaching communities how to address perpetrator attitudes and behavior before they escalate to a violent act. Sadly, I know that if there had been more of a focus on primary prevention at CCSU prior to my assault, there is a good chance I would not be standing here testifying as victim/survivor today. I hope that you can see how imperative this bill is in stopping sexual violence from happening before another assault occurs on one of our college campuses.

Thank you for considering this important piece of legislation. I hope that you will join me in supporting HB 5031.

Krystal Rich
Adult Advocate
Sexual Assault Crisis Service, a program of the YWCA New Britain
(860) 225-4681 x 214
krich@ywcanewbritain.org



Testimony of The Center for Sexual Assault Crisis Services
In support of HB 5031, An Act Concerning Sexual Violence on College Campuses
Tracy Guglieri, Counselor/Adult Advocate
Committee on High Education and Employment Advancement, March 6, 2012

Honorable members of the High Education and Employment Advancement committee, my name is Tracy Guglieri and I am a Counselor with The Center for Sexual Assault Crisis Counseling and Education located in Stamford, CT. The Center provides counseling and educational services to the eight towns of lower Fairfield County. During the last fiscal year The Center has provided counseling services to 510 survivors of sexual assault. In addition to our counseling services we also provide educational programs and conferences to the communities that we service. In May of 2009, we hosted a conference for high school seniors and parents titled "Know before you go, How to be safe on College Campuses." The Center for Sexual Assault Crisis Counseling and Education would like to offer support for HB 5031, An Act Concerning Sexual Violence on College Campuses.

The Campus Sexual Assault (CSA) Study surveyed two public universities over a two year period from 2005-2007. Out of the 5,446 women who participated in this study 19% reported having experienced an attempted or completed sexual assault since entering college. Since entering college 13.7% of women experienced a completed sexual assault. Two thirds of victims reported not reporting the assault to local law enforcement and just tried to avoid the perpetrator. 14% of survivors didn't even know how, where, or who to report that a crime has happened.¹ In another survey conducted by The Center for Problem Oriented Policing 10% of acquaintance rape victims on college campuses are men.²

HB 5031 has the potential to share some of these concerns by requiring that colleges and universities share information about reporting, what resources are available, and options for safety planning after an assault has occurred. This would require institutions to disclose information about their disciplinary proceedings and ensure that those conducting these proceedings are educated in issues pertaining to sexual assault. Most importantly, it would hold universities responsible to provide primary prevention and awareness programs to their new students and employees.

¹ Christopher P. Krebs Ph.D., Christine H. Lindquist, Ph.D., Tara D. Warner, MA, Bonnie S. Fisher, Ph.D., Sandra L. Martin, Ph.D., "The Campus Sexual Assault Study" Washington, DC, 2007 Document number 221153

² Benson, Charton, and Goodhart (1992)

Prevention education aims to prevent sexual violence before it occurs. Prevention does not mean telling students to stay inside at night and only giving "rape" whistles to them (which was given to me, but with no explanation). This just is not good enough. Primary prevention education will and should encourage students to examine the social norms that support violence and ask them to take an active role in its prevention. It will empower all students to step in and hold their peers accountable for words and actions that lead to violence. This prevention education has the potential to change the culture of a campus and make it a safer environment. Prevention education will also send the message to students, parents, and staff that the institution takes sexual violence very seriously. If survivors feel that their campus will respond to their assault in a fair, confidential and sensitive manner they will be more likely to reach out for support and take the necessary steps to hold their attacker accountable.

Thank you for considering this important piece of legislation. We hope that you will join us in supporting HB 5031.

Tracy Guglieri
Counselor/Adult Advocate
The Center for Sexual Assault Crisis Counseling and Education
700 Canal Street Suite 22B
Stamford, CT 06902
Phone (203)348-9346
Email: t.guglieri@thecenter-ct.org

**Testimony In Support of HB5031 AN ACT CONCERNING SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON
COLLEGE CAMPUSES**

Dana Ilowite, Student

Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement, March 6, 2012

Members of the Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement, my name is Dana Ilowite. I am currently an undergraduate at the University of New Haven, where I study Criminal Justice, Psychology, and Victim Services. In the fall I will be attending Columbia University to obtain a Master's in Social Work. I full support HB5031: An Act Concerning Sexual Violence on College Campuses because I believe that sexual violence needs to be made more aware to all.

Sexual violence can occur anywhere, especially on college campuses. In a world where victims are often made to feel worse about their attack by those who are supposed to be supporting them, finding ways to educate all those involved with campus life on this issue should be of the highest importance. The idea that college campuses do not have to have any of the guidelines mentioned in HB5031 is a scary one. Colleges and universities must be able to provide the various forms of support that victims of sexual assaults need. This bill will help raise awareness throughout the campuses and work toward prevention strategies. After the initial complaint is filed, many victims feel that they are being pushed aside while the justice system takes over. This way of thinking must end and support throughout the entire process must be available.

Colleges and universities hold events daily for various causes, but from experience I have not seen very many for sexual assault. HB5031 would help change that by providing students and staff with their schools policy on sexual assault and where to turn if one is ever to fall victim to such a violent act. It would require campaigns within the school to raise awareness and find ways of prevention. The bill also would require notification and of disciplinary proceedings of the assailant to the victim. I feel that this is a major point. Many victims feel that they are not included in the process after they make their complaint and allowing them to be part of the proceedings can help change that mindset in both the justice system and victims alike.

I truly believe that Hb5031 will only be a positive influence for all colleges and universities across the state. I urge you to join me in supporting this bill to help the safety and future of all college students.

Thank you,

Dana Ilowite

Email: Dilow1@unh.newhaven.edu

COMMISSION OFFICERS

Antonia "Toni" Moran, *Chair*
 Melanie O'Brien, *Vice Chair*
 Mary Lee A. Kierman, *Secretary*
 Denise Rodosevich, *Treasurer*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Teresa C. Younger

Connecticut General Assembly



PCSW

Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

The State's leading force for women's equality

COMMISSIONERS

Lucia A. Aschetuno
 JoAnn Calnen
 Mayor April Capone
 Yvonne R. Davis
 Barbara DeBapuste
 Adrienne Farrar Houel
 Kristin A. LaFleur
 Jean L. Rexford
 Helene Shay
 Patricia E.M. Whitcombe
 Cecilia J. Woods

HONORARY MEMBERS

Connie Dice
 Patricia T. Hendel
 Patricia Russo

Testimony of
 The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women
 Before the
 Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee
 March 6, 2012

RE: H.B. 5031, AAC Sexual Violence on College Campuses

Senators Bye and Boucher, Representatives Willis and LeGeyt, and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) on the above referenced bill.

PCSW supports the portions of H.B. 5031 that require each higher education institutions to adopt and disclose a policy regarding sexual assault and intimate partner violence; and provide prevention and awareness programming. Passage of this bill would impact a significant population of women within the State.

CT Specific Data

- Nearly one in five Connecticut college female residents (19%) are sexual assault survivors.
- One in four (26%) Connecticut women are sexual assault survivors.
- Of the victims who never told anyone about being raped, 24% remained silent because they felt ashamed.

Under the Results Based Accountability (RBA) reporting requirements, the PCSW recommended that the Legislature require higher education institutions to adopt and disclose a policy on sexual assault and intimate partner violence as a means to "turn the curve" for women's health and safety. Sexual violence causes several long-term health problems, such as chronic pain, headaches, stomach problems, sexually transmitted diseases, unplanned pregnancies, and emotional distress." The Centers for Disease Control reports that the health care costs of intimate partner violence –physical assault, rape and stalking – exceed \$5.8 billion each year, nearly \$4.1 billion of which is for direct medical and mental health services."

PCSW not only encourage passage of H.B. 5031, we also strongly recommends that a uniform victim-friendly policy be developed to be used at each higher education institution. We have held discussions with representatives from several state universities on this issue, and as of this point each school develops its own policies. Some policies are strong and very effective, others could be improved. If the culture of sexual assault is to be eradicated, it would be best to have a uniform policy, thereby uniform enforcement, throughout the State.

We look forward to working with you to address this issue. Thank you for your consideration.

18-20 Trinity St., Hartford, CT 06106 • phone: 860/240-8300 • fax: 860/240-8314 • email: pcsw@cga.ct.gov • web: www.cga.ct.gov/pcsw

PCSW Testimony
Before the Higher Education and
Employment Advancement Committee
March 6, 2012
Page 2 of 2

¹ CONNSACS, Sexual Assault in Connecticut Fact Sheet

² Center for Disease Control. *Understanding Sexual Violence*

³ "Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States." Center for Disease Control. March 2003. Accessed December 9, 2008
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/pub-res/ipv_cost/04_costs.htm>

Testimony of Marichris Cariaga
In Support of HB 5031: *An Act Concerning Sexual Violence on College Campuses*
March 6, 2012

Senator Bye, Representative Willis, and honorable members of the Committee, I am Marichris Cariaga, a junior at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, CT, originally from Norwich, CT, and a Campus Action Intern for Planned Parenthood of Southern New England. I am testifying in support of HB 5031: *An Act Concerning Sexual Violence on College Campuses*. As a peer educator at the Health and Wellness Education Office, a member of several on-campus organizations including Students United for Reproductive Justice and UConn NOW, a nursing student with a women's studies minor, and an ally for sexual assault victims on campus, sexual violence is an issue that I personally have heard about first-hand and firmly believe is intolerable. This bill is imperative to ensure campus safety and further improve campus culture by implementing the first steps to end rape culture.

My freshman year, I enrolled in a one-credit course entitled *First Year Experience* that was advised, but not required for freshmen to take. The course intended to aid in the transition from high school to college-life. Only one class period talked about rape and consent, but the line of consent was surprisingly ambiguous to most of us. We were taught what consent was by defining what it is not; thus, rape is any form of sexual activity performed without *sober* consent. Although most students agreed, a few male students disagreed with the definition. Sobriety, they claimed, was not necessary for consent, but rather, someone *conveying* "yes" or simply *acting* lascivious (despite impaired judgment) amounted to sexual consent. In a survey of high school students, 56% of girls and 76% of boys believed forced sex was acceptable under some circumstancesⁱ. I believe that including policy that focuses on changing attitudes regarding sexual assault would lead to the elimination of the wrongly held belief of what *doesn't* constitute sexual violence, and strengthen comprehension of what does.

Recently, my university's Tier III student-run organization, UCTV, aired an episode of a student-written comedy sketch show in which the opening scene was supposedly a satire of rape. This, in itself, is problematic because rape is never funny. The clip contained very offensive language, particularly perpetuating victim-blaming. The clip showed a woman running from a perpetrator on UConn's "Rape Trail," a trail often used to connect on-campus housing with off-campus apartments. When the woman dialed the UConn Police from a Campus "Blue Light" Emergency phone, instead of contacting the police, she was subjected to misogynistic insults calling her a "blonde bitch, always crying about being raped," a "howler monkey," and much more surprisingly graphic language and appalling images suggesting that she would have "wished that she were raped by somebody else."

As a student whose student-fees and tuition pay for this student-funded, student-run organization, I was livid; and so were many others within the UConn community. During a mass protest which included a student-held forum, one of the demands made of UCTV was to strengthen its Code of Conduct, Broadcast Policies, and require mandatory sensitivity trainings to its staff by the Violence Against Women Prevention Program (VAWPP) on-campus before being able to produce videos for the organization. However, UCTV responded by saying that the mandatory VAWPP training was not something currently "feasible" for the organization.

Rape culture on college campuses exists and it is instances like those above, with a lack of stricter policies or real consequences, that perpetuate rape culture. Without much attention or open discussion focused on sexual assault on campus, the silence often leads to victim-shaming and resistance to reach out. The National Institute of Justice estimates 35 rapes per 1,000 female college students annually, but approximately 50% of *victims* don't think of sexual assault as rape, particularly when alcohol is involved or if there is no sign of physical injuryⁱⁱ. As a result, less than 5% of campus sexual assaults are brought to the authoritiesⁱⁱⁱ.

I advocate implementing strategies that will change current attitudes and beliefs toward sexual assault on college campuses, transmit a solid understanding of what constitutes sexual violence, and eradicate stigmas or hesitance associated with reporting cases. Ultimately, I support this bill because it should be a priority to ensure that the student body feels secure, valued, and safe at all times while attending the university. It will also play a role impacting how students view themselves, their safety, and furthermore, take a giant step toward ending rape culture that is prevalent on college campuses. Thus, I urge the committee to please support HB 5031. Thank you.

Marichris Cariaga
 79 Mohegan Park Rd
 Norwich, CT 06360

ⁱ *Acquaintance Rape: The Hidden Crime*, 1991

ⁱⁱ "College Campuses and Rape." [Online] Available http://www.crisisconnectioninc.org/sexualassault/college_campuses_and_rape.htm, 2002

ⁱⁱⁱ National Institute for Justice – *Sexual Assault on Campus. What Colleges and Universities are Doing About It* 2002

Rape Crisis Center of Milford, Inc.

*Serving Ansonia, Derby,
Milford, Orange, Seymour,
Shelton, & West Haven*

Officers

Antonio Vittu
President
Paula Daisey
Vice President
Eileen Schuman
Secretary
Frank Matthews
Treasurer

Directors

Mana Arnold
Joseph DeNigris
Lisa Diamond Graham
William Graham
Kevin Holster
Teddi McKenna
Heather Morgado
Benjamin Trabka

President's Advisory Committee

Andrea Asnes, MD
Dennis McBride, MD
Representative Klandes
Lynne Viestu - Berube

Staff

Ann Z. Fabian
Executive Director

Margaret Pisano
*Sexual Assault Crisis Services /
MDT Coordinator*

Justine Jarvie
Community Educator

Cindy Dugan
Child Advocate

Sheila Richards
Adult Advocate

Jessica Champagne
College Advocate



Testimony of the Rape Crisis Center of Milford, Inc.
**In support of HB 5031, AN ACT CONCERNING SEXUAL VIOLENCE
ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES**

Ann Fabian, Executive Director, The Rape Crisis Center of Milford
Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement, March 6, 2012

Senator Bye, Representative Willis, and honorable members of the Committee, my name is Ann Fabian, and I am writing on behalf of the Rape Crisis Center of Milford in support of HB 5031. The Rape Crisis Center of Milford provides free and confidential 24-7 sexual assault crisis services and prevention to our community. Our service area includes the cities and towns of Ansonia, Derby, Milford, Orange, Seymour, Shelton, and West Haven. Although all of our services are vital to the community, I would like to take this time to explain why the prevention education requirements outlined in HB 5031 are essential to the work that we do.

One of the goals of HB 5031 is to provide primary prevention and awareness programming to all incoming students and new faculty members. The programming would include definitions of consent as well as information about the options following an assault. This type of programming is vital to our work at the Center.

A 2001 study by the Bureau of Justice found that **48.8% of college women who had experiences that met this study's definition of rape did not consider what happened to them as rape.** This statistic is hugely illuminating. As a provider of crisis services, we recognize that there are a variety of reasons that someone may not have identified their experience as a sexual assault. One of the biggest reasons may be that the student is minimizing their own experience. The media's portrayal of sexual violence perpetuates false ideas about sexual assault constantly. For example, most victims in NBC's Law and Order: Special Victims Unit are attacked by a stranger in Central Park or a subway platform. They are brutally beaten, many times with the bruises and cuts still visible in the court proceedings. The cases that we hear about most in our own police blotters mirror these types of attacks. However, we know that these cases are the minority—in most cases, the perpetrator is someone known to the victim and the use of physical force is minimal.

The danger in these myths is that if a student's attack was anything less than the Law and Order portrayal of rape, they feel as though their experience was not 'the real thing'. These victims are left to deal with these confusing feelings on their own, unaware of the services that are available on their own campus.

By requiring primary prevention education to all incoming students, college communities can ensure that students are getting a fuller (and thereby better) definition of sexual assault which will include definitions of consent and state definitions of each degree of sexual assault, as well as outlining the resources available to students following an assault. This explicit definition will be one that encompasses more experiences, helping students to not only gain a better understanding about the nature of sexual violence, but also to recognize offices on campus that can provide accommodations to better support the victim.

As an organization that provides direct services to college students in our service area, we thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 5031.

Sincerely,

Ann Fabian
Executive Director
March 2, 2012

Testimony of Connecticut College Consortium Against Sexual Assault
In support of HB 5031, AN ACT CONCERNING SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON
COLLEGE CAMPUSES

Jessica Champagne, College Advocate, The Rape Crisis Center of Milford
Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement, March 6, 2012

Senator Bye, Representative Willis, and members of the Committee, my name is Jessica Champagne, and I am writing on behalf of the Connecticut College Consortium Against Sexual Assault (CCASA) in support of HB 5031. The Consortium is comprised of representatives from Connecticut colleges and universities, as well as individuals from community services and programs who work to improve the response to and prevention of sexual violence. CCASA members include staff from residential life, student activities, campus-based counseling centers, women's centers, and advocates from sexual assault crisis centers.

CCASA is committed to providing a forum for campus faculty, administrators, and students to address the issues of sexual assault and other forms of violence against women on college and university campuses; and to share information, strategies, ideas and resources in order to strengthen and support each institution's work to end sexual violence. Our work as a consortium would be favorably impacted by the passage of HB 5031.

The proposed goals of HB 5031 touch upon many salient issues that greatly affect all members of a college community. HB 5031 represents best practices in victim services, including clear and easily accessible sexual assault misconduct policies, access to campus resources for victims of crime, primary prevention and awareness training for all faculty and staff, bystander intervention training for students, and collaboration with outside service agencies such as local rape crisis centers and police departments. The passage of a detailed and comprehensive statewide bill would send a clear message to students that sexual assault education and prevention is a priority.

Although each piece of HB 5031 is beneficial and necessary in working to end sexual violence on college campuses, one of the greatest assets of the bill is that, if passed, it will require that all Connecticut colleges have some level of consistency in the handling of disclosures of sexual assault. As it stands, it is up to each individual college to create and enforce a sexual assault misconduct policy. During our monthly consortium meetings, it becomes clear that the colleges and universities represented are each handling the issue of sexual violence on campus in different ways. All too often, the result is an unclear, outdated policy that is not victim-centered. The way that things currently stand is not advantageous to anyone. A strong, easily accessible, and consistent policy would assist *all* members of a college community in identifying sexual assault and locating the proper resources that could provide services. Faculty and staff should know what is expected of them, as well as which guidelines they need to follow should a student disclose being a victim of sexual assault. If the bill is passed, it would greatly assist administrators on campus in complying with the federal reporting requirements outlined in the Clery Act.

Moreover, students deserve to have access to an easily understandable outline of the different ways to report an assault, what the college judicial or disciplinary process entails, contact information for various confidential resources on campus, as well as the contact information for community resources – including police departments, hospitals, and local rape crisis centers. The creation of a strong and consistent policy would increase student awareness of the disciplinary action that the school will take against students who perpetrate acts of violence, hold perpetrators accountable, promote a collaborative and coordinated response to incidents of sexual assault, increase student awareness about services available to victims of crime, and help victims feel empowered throughout the reporting process.

This legislation also focuses on primary prevention – including training and education to be provided to all incoming students as well as all new faculty and staff. This portion of the bill is essential in ensuring that the information outlined in college's sexual misconduct policy is disseminated. Research has shown that incoming first-year students within their first 6-8 weeks of being on campus are victims of sexual violence at a rate that is higher than any other time during their college career. The Consortium regularly shares ideas for programming during this time frame, known as 'The Red Zone', however requiring that all new students attend a primary prevention program would again, ensure that every individual is getting this information.

As a group of professionals in the field, we are truly hopeful and optimistic that the passage of HB 5031 would help us reach our goal of creating safer, more informed college communities in a way that would significantly impact the health and well-being of students in the state of Connecticut.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 5031.

Sincerely,

Jessica Champagne
CCASA Co-Chair
College Advocate
The Rape Crisis Center of Milford

Dr. Glory Aguilar Blanceagle
CCASA Co-Chair
Director of Counseling Services
University of Bridgeport



Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc.

96 Pitkin Street · East Hartford, CT 06108 · Phone: 860-282-9881 · Fax: 860-291-9335 · www.connsacs.org

Testimony of Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services
In Support of HB 5031 AN ACT CONCERNING SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON
COLLEGE CAMPUSES

Bethany Hamilton, Prevention and Training Coordinator
Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement, March 6, 2012

Senator Bye, Representative Willis and honorable members of the Committee, my name is Bethany Hamilton and I am the Prevention and Training Coordinator for Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc. (CONNSACS). CONNSACS is the statewide coalition of community-based sexual assault crisis programs. I have worked with victims as a sexual assault crisis counselor and currently work with several of Connecticut's colleges and universities as the staff coordinator of the Connecticut College Consortium. I am writing to enthusiastically support HB 5031: An Act Concerning Sexual Violence on College Campuses.

The impact of this important legislation is two-fold. HB 5031: An Act Concerning Sexual Violence on College Campuses would simultaneously bolster existing sexual assault policies and services at Connecticut colleges and universities, while also providing support for much needed prevention and awareness programming. This legislation offers a vital and unique opportunity to assist victims of sexual violence *and* to prevent the perpetration of sexual violence through primary prevention education.

HB 5031: An Act Concerning Sexual Violence on College Campuses would provide much needed guidance for universities to create comprehensive, consistent sexual assault policies, as well as to educate their students, faculty, and staff about the distinct and complex issues of sexual violence and intimate partner violence. Universities strive to provide fair and equitable treatment to both the accused student and the complainant during sexual misconduct hearings; however, the unintended consequences of poor policies, lack of training specific to sexual violence, and a dearth of comprehensive support services often leave students doubly victimized following a sexual assault on campus. This lack of policy and training specific to sexual violence hinders investigations, as well as compromises administrators' ability to provide appropriate support to the victims of sexual violence.

While numerous researchers have documented the prevalence of sexual assault on college campuses, there is less research identifying the lasting effects that an assault has on the victim. Many victims choose to leave campus or drop out of school altogether following a sexual assault. The victims I have worked with who reported their assault to campus officials noted receiving little to no information about their rights, poor administrative follow through and notifications during the process, and insufficient support during, and especially after, the judicial process. Victims often felt that they had few options and were seemingly forced to choose between their emotional well-being and their college careers.

While there is still much work to be done, many campuses around the state of Connecticut have worked diligently to identify best practices, craft policies pertaining to sexual assault, and create coordinated campus responses to victims of sexual violence. The Connecticut College Consortium to End Violence Against Women (CCCEVAW) is an example of a successful collaboration that, like HB 5031, incorporates best practices into the implementation of sexual assault policies and procedures. The CCCEVAW is a group of nine Connecticut colleges and universities collaborating on a 36 month grant from the Department of Justice focused on strengthening sexual assault victim response and the prevention of sexual violence. The main areas of focus for the grant include implementing mandatory freshmen orientation training to include information about sexual assault, forming and sustaining Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs), training campus safety officers in how to respond to victims and assist in investigations, and working with Judicial officers to identify best practices and implement effective policies. Through this grant, the nine participating campuses also launched The Red Flag Campaign, a prevention campaign aimed at curbing the incidences of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

The campus communities involved in the CCCEVAW grant have been enriched through collaboration on the grant. Campuses have been able to strengthen existing sexual assault policies and launch prevention activities on their campuses; however, only nine colleges were able to benefit from this collaboration. One of the greatest benefits of HB 5031: An Act Concerning Sexual Assault on College Campuses is that it would require all Connecticut colleges and universities to have consistent, comprehensive policies following the disclosure of a sexual assault on campus. In combination with training and awareness and prevention activities, the policies proposed in HB 5031 would ensure that all campus communities are safer and more knowledgeable about the prevention of sexual violence.

This legislation would greatly benefit students enrolled in a college or university in Connecticut, as well as all citizens of our state as we continue to work towards the elimination of sexual violence. I hope that you will join us in supporting HB 5031.



Testimony of the Women's Center of Greater Danbury
 In Support of HB 5031: An Act Concerning Sexual Violence on College Campuses
 Melanie Danyliw, Director of Training & Program Development
 Monica Sievel, M.S., Women's Center Campus Advocate at Western Connecticut State University
 Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement, March 6, 2012

Senator Bye, Representative Willis and honorable members of the Committee, my name is Melanie Danyliw, Director of Training & Program Development at the Women's Center of Greater Danbury, a member agency of Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services (CONNSACS) providing sexual assault and domestic violence services throughout upper Fairfield and lower Litchfield counties. I am submitting this testimony with my colleague, Monica Sievel, our Campus Advocate at Western Connecticut State University. In February of 2007, the university entered into a *Memorandum of Understanding* with our agency to develop response protocols and provide education and counseling services on our issues on their campus. Within the context of that experience, we would like to offer our strong support for HB 5031, An Act Concerning Sexual Violence.

Given the prevalence of sexual assault (up to 25% of college females will experience some type of sexual assault during their college career¹) and the fact that few victims report to campus officials – including the police² (fear of reprisal, not wanting people to know, and not defining their assault as “serious enough” being the dominant reasons for not reporting³), it is critical that we foster campus environments that encourage disclosure so that victims can be safe, heal and achieve justice. This is especially crucial given that the immediate and long-term impact of sexual and intimate partner violence can undermine a student's ability to achieve the financial self-sufficiency that is the very goal of higher education. Studies indicate that most victims do not perform at pre-assault academic levels, miss classes more frequently, withdraw from or reduce course load, and, at the extreme, transfer or drop out of school completely.⁴ For those perpetrators who are held accountable, there can be equally devastating consequences. For those who are not held accountable, there is the risk of serial abuse.

HB 5031 addresses these needs: (1) The development of effective, victim-centered response procedures and adequate dissemination of this information to students increase the likelihood that victims will access help and that their friends, to whom victims most often disclose, will be able to encourage safe options (2) This Act also recognizes that effective response requires not only coordination of services but also adequate training in sexual assault for providers at every entry point to the system, including administration, housing and adjudication. Inadequate system response in itself can compound victimization. (3) The Act encourages education on the issues of sexual and dating violence throughout the college career. Timely risk reduction education in sufficient dosage is critical for all new students. On-going primary prevention and awareness programming, however, by addressing cultural and social norms, empowers students and faculty to create a campus culture that confronts unhealthy behaviors while advancing healthy ones. Such highly visible messages facilitate victims coming forward, firm in the belief that they will be believed and their abusers held accountable. As significant, the environment that primary prevention creates reduces the probability of violence occurring in the first place by promoting healthy values and behaviors.

Thank you for considering this legislation. We hope that you will join us in supporting HB 5031.

Melanie E. Danyliw
 Director of Training & Program Development

Monica Sievel, M.S
 Campus Advocate

www.wcogd.org

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
 2 West Street, Danbury, CT 06810
 p 203-731-5200 f 203-731-5207
womenscenter@wcogd.org

SEXUAL
 ASSAULT
 HOTLINE
 203-731-5204

DOMESTIC
 VIOLENCE
 HOTLINE
 203-731-5206

WOMEN'S
 CENTER
 HELPLINE
 203-731-5200

¹ Hirsch, Kathleen. "Fraternities of Fear Gang Rape, Male Bonding, and the Silencing of Women " Ms Magazine, 2000: 1(2) 52-56.

² Fisher, B.S , F.T Cullen, and M.G. Turner. "The Sexual Victimization of College Women." Washington, DC U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics and National Institute of Justice, 2000, NCJ 182369

³ Ibid

⁴ [http //www.aauw org/act/laf/library/assault_stats.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/act/laf/library/assault_stats.cfm)

Testimony of Safe Haven of Greater Waterbury Sexual Assault Crisis Center
In Support of HB 5031, An Act Concerning Sexual Violence on College Campuses
Heather Francisco, Adult Advocate/Legislative Liaison
Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement, March 6, 2012

Senator Bye, Representative Willis, and honorable members of the Committee, my name is Heather Francisco. I am the adult advocate and legislative liaison for Safe Haven of Greater Waterbury Sexual Assault Crisis Services. Safe Haven is a member of Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services (CONNSACS). Since I have taken over this position I have worked with many men and women who have experienced sexual assault. A number of those cases involve assaults that occurred on a collage campus. Based on that work, I would like to offer our support for HB 5031, **An Act Concerning Sexual Violence on College Campuses**.

I recently responded to a hospital call for a young woman who was raped on a collage campus in CT. This woman was scared and had little knowledge of her rights or the policies the school had on sexual assaults. This young modest woman was horrified by the events that occurred. She was unsure about reporting what happened and hesitant to even have evidence collected. HB 5031, **An Act Concerning Sexual Violence on College Campuses** could help individuals in the same position as my client to be aware of information about reporting, available resources, and options for safety planning after an assault. This primary prevention and awareness can prevent sexual assaults before they occur.

Primary prevention programming encourages students to examine the social norms that support violence and asks them to take an active role in its prevention. It empowers all students to step in and hold their peers accountable for words and actions that lead to violence. Primary prevention education has the potential to change the culture of a campus and make it a safer place for learning. Awareness programming sends a message to students and staff that the institution takes sexual assault seriously. If victims believe that their campus will respond to their victimization in a fair and sensitive manner, they are much more likely to reach out for assistance and take steps to hold their offender accountable before he or she can perpetrate other crimes.

Thank you for considering this important piece of legislation. We hope that you will join us in supporting HB 5031.

Heather Francisco
Adult Advocate/Legislative Liaison
Safe Haven of Greater Waterbury
Phone: (203) 753 - 3613
Email: h.francisco65@comcast.net

Testimony of Amber-Lynn Dunphy
In Support of HB 5031, *An Act Concerning Sexual Violence on College Campuses*
Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee
Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee:

I am writing in support of HB 5031, *An Act Concerning Sexual Violence on College Campuses*. My name is Amber-Lynn Dunphy and I am currently an adult student at the University of New Haven. I was born, raised and still reside in Waterbury, CT, however.

During the course of my studies at the University of New Haven, I have also been an intern with Jane Doe No More, Inc. for the past year. During my work with Jane Doe No More, I have encountered several women who had been sexually assaulted while students on college campuses. As many of you may be aware, the majority of completed rapes have occurred in the dorm rooms of the victims. Although the University of New Haven currently has a very strict police concerning sexual violence on campus, it is my understanding that this is not the standard for all Connecticut institutes of higher education. Through my work with Jane Doe No More, and as a college student, I wholeheartedly believe that it is imperative that all campuses have strict policies in place concerning the reporting and handling of sexual assaults, as well education for all incoming students and new employees as to the proper procedures for reporting sexual assaults, as well as the disciplinary actions that would be taken by the institution.

Unfortunately, many sexual assaults go unreported because the victim did not know the proper procedure in reporting the assault or did not believe the school would take disciplinary action against the offender. By having these policies in place, it is hoped that more victims will step forward or, more importantly, that more potential offenders will think twice before acting.

By passing HB 5031, it will ensure that all institutes of higher learning in Connecticut will be required to become more aware of this epidemic of sexual assaults on college campuses and will begin to work towards eliminating this terrifying event.

Thank you.

Amber-Lynn Dunphy
Waterbury, CT
adunp1@unh.newhaven.edu
Amber L. Dunphy
ACJA Tolerance Committee Chair

Testimony of Ingrid Pasten
In Support of HB 5031 *An Act Concerning Sexual Violence on College Campuses*
March 6, 2012

Senator Bye, Representative Willis, and members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, my name is Ingrid Pasten and I am a permanent resident of Stamford CT and an intern and volunteer at *The Center for Sexual Assault Crisis Counseling and Education*. I am also an undergraduate student at *Sacred Heart University* where I am pursuing my Bachelor's Degree in Social Work.

I have seen and experienced firsthand an untold amount of sexual violence in my years as a student and most recently in the last two years as a volunteer for The Center's sexual assault crisis hotline. I have solidified my beliefs that students are constantly silenced by shame and fear to report sexual violence on campuses. For these reasons I stand firmly behind HB 5031: An Act Concerning Sexual Violence on College Campuses. By introducing students to an appropriate sexual violence program they will be better educated about the issue and ultimately know where to go if they need help or support.

The allegations about sexual abuse at Syracuse University and Penn State University illustrate the dangers of sexual assault and how these incidents can happen anywhere. While these cases did not involve peer to peer sexual violence, they illustrate that sexual violence can happen anywhere, even in what are considered to be some of the best institutions in the country. Not only does this happen in other states, but this happens in Connecticut. In January of 2012 at Sacred Heart University in Bridgeport, CT, two university students were charged for sexually assaulting a female student in an off-campus apartment.

The Act Concerning Sexual Violence on College Campuses can improve the services by:

- Educating the victims
- Educating bystanders to stop violence on campuses.
- Enforcing the importance of believing victims when they disclose, even if alcohol or drugs were involved.
- Requiring more training for institutions and new programs to push educators, police and others to aggressively pursue reports of sexual violence on campuses.
- Notifying survivors of their rights, empowering them to report the crime.

I firmly believe this bill will be crucial to stopping sexual violence on campuses; it would be extremely beneficial for the students and those who are already going through the trauma of having experienced sexual violence.

Thank you for your time.

Ingrid Pasten
80 Mayflower Ave.
Stamford, CT 06906
Phone: (203) 570-2702

Testimony of Megan Zoglio, University of New Haven Student and CONNSACS Intern
In Support of HB 5031, *An Act Concerning Sexual Violence on College Campuses*
Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement, March 6, 2012

Senator Bye, Representative Willis and respected members of the Committee, my name is Megan Zoglio and I am an intern at Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc.(CONNSACS). I am also an undergraduate at the University of New Haven, where I am studying Criminal Justice. I stand firmly behind HB 5031: An Act Concerning the Elimination of Sexual Violence on College Campuses.

Starting a college career should yield new experiences, friends and academic challenges. Exploring a new realm of academia, and unfamiliar territory, poses numerous opportunities for adventure. This experience, however, should not be scarring, terrifying, or lonely. Students should feel safe and secure on their college campus. HB 5031 would ensure this safety by being a catalyst for social change. Campuses fostering respect, accountability, and social change will be safer, more nurturing institutions.

As a young woman attending college, I cannot help but notice the culture in which we live. Young people are desensitized to the word "rape," as they toss the word around in casual conversation: they "rape" a friend in a video game, as if it means "defeat." They speak of rape as if it has no other meaning, and completely disregard the terror and violence associated with rape. Desensitizing encourages violence by allowing people to think there is nothing wrong with rape. By passing HB 5031, education and primary prevention initiatives would be mandatory. Primary prevention identifies attitudes that support sexual violence, and aims to dispel them. This assists in preventing sexual violence in a proactive, instead of a reactive, manner. Through education, we can promote change, while also fighting societal norms that promote sexual violence. Primary prevention empowers people with knowledge, and encourages change, ultimately avoiding the initial perpetration of violence.

HB 5031's provisions also protect victims of sexual assault and intimate partner violence by mandating universities to outline the protocols to follow after an assault occurs. It supports victims, and makes it more likely that perpetrators will be held accountable. Victims of such horrible acts could feel more comfortable reaching out to their university for assistance, and the faculty and staff could better serve them, in order to lessen the trauma of the aftermath. Reporting becomes easier and less traumatizing, while also protecting victims from further victimization. By passing HB 5031, you prevent the future victimization of students, support those who have been victimized, and spread hope for university communities that sexual violence is intolerable and preventable.



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF VICTIM ADVOCATE
505 HUDSON STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106

Michelle S. Cruz, Esq.
State Victim Advocate

Testimony of Michelle Cruz, Esq., State Victim Advocate
Submitted to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee
Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Good morning Senator Byc, Representative Willis and distinguished members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee. For the record, my name is Michelle Cruz and I am the Victim Advocate for the State of Connecticut. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning:

House Bill No. 5031 An Act Concerning Sexual Violence on College Campuses
(Support with Proposed Amendment)

As you are aware, in 1996, Connecticut residents overwhelmingly supported the passage of the Victims' Rights Amendment to our State Constitution. Among the State Constitutional rights of crime victims is the right to be treated with fairness and respect and the right to be reasonably protected from the accused. As such, institutions of higher education in the state have a responsibility to ensure that the rights of crime victims are protected and those working and/or attending the institution are informed and aware of the rights and services available to crime victims should the unfortunate occur.

College campuses are a microcosm of our large community and as such, crime is equally present on our college campuses. Studies have shown that the country's colleges with large concentrations of young women, are at greater risk for rape and other forms of sexual assault than women in the general population or in a comparable age group. According to RAINN, college women are four times more likely to be sexually assaulted. Based on the findings of the Research Report, *The Sexual Victimization of College Women*, conducted by U.S. Department of Justice; Office of Justice Programs; National Institute of Justice¹, it is estimated that the women at a college that has 10,000 female students could experience more than 350 rapes a year— a finding with serious policy implications for college administrators. Yet compared with the National average, those numbers are probably low. Consider this:

- Every 2 minutes, someone in the U.S. is sexually assaulted
- There is an average of 207,754 victims (age 12 or older) of sexual assault each year
- 60% of sexual assaults are not reported to the police
- 15 of 16 rapists will never spend a day in jail²

¹The Sexual Victimization of College Women: <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/182369.pdf>

²RAINN <http://www.rainn.org/statistics>

Prior to taking my role as the State Victim Advocate, I was a prosecutor in MA, within a community with several colleges. What struck me as a prosecutor was that more often than not, the crime victim would disappear after the arraignment in crimes involving assaultive behavior that had occurred on college campus. When I would inquire as the status of the victim, I was often told the victim either "relocated" or "choose internal disciplinary" procedures at the institution. Without a victim to testify, the case would fold.

Think of it this way, any business would be concerned if its paying customers were alerted that use of their facilities and/or services, could put them or their children in the path of crime. Colleges and Universities are ultimately, a business, looking to make a profit. The unintended consequence of reporting crimes accurately on our college campuses is that the institutions may loose customers. This has led to certain institutions discouraging reporting of assaultive crimes to authorities. We at the OVA have heard it time and again. The bottom line is we are talking about the safety of our children and our communities.

Add to this equation, the well known fact that sexual assault is one of the most underreported crimes. It is also a well known fact that many victims of sexual assault blame themselves or their own behaviors for the crime committed against them. Considering the well established self blaming that occurs in cases of sexual assault, it is imperative that those who provide services to our students in the aftermath of crime, are cognizant of their responsibilities under the state Constitution and aware of services available for the crime victim. In order for this to occur, two things need to transpire (1) House Bill No. 5031 must become law with the proposed amendment by the OVA and (2) our state colleges and universities have to get honest about crime on campus.

It is unbelievable that, as reported by the two universities below, there was NOT ONE non-forcible sex offense reported for three years. Rather, the statistics below are indicative of a lack of education, experience, knowledge and awareness of sexual assault on college campuses. Interestingly among the sources for obtaining the data below is the Women's Center, a source I believe that would strongly dispute the accuracy of the statistics.

**Central Connecticut State University
Criminal Offenses – On Campus**

Criminal Offense	2008	2009	2010
Forcible sex offenses (including forcible rape)	6	3	4
Non - forcible sex offenses	0	0	0

Offenses reported to the CCSU Police as well as other campus authorities.

University of Connecticut
Criminal Offenses – On Campus

Criminal Offense	2008	2009	2010
Forcible sex offenses (including forcible rape)	11	7	9
Non - forcible sex offenses	0	0	0

Offenses reported from the UConn Police Department, Office of Community Standards, Department of Residential Life, Women's Center, and Student Activities.

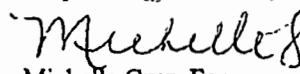
Again in Connecticut, crime victims have state Constitutional rights and as such, our state's colleges and universities are required to ensure that the crime victims' rights are protected and promoted. Therefore, the OVA is asking to amend House Bill No. 5031, to ensure protection of all crime victims as required by the state Constitution.

House Bill No. 5031 is an acknowledgment that institutions of higher education are deficient in policy, training and awareness of crime victimization on campuses. There is a current disconnect between the status of state victims' rights, the treatment by staffing at institutions of higher education and the student crime victims. The attached amendment offered by the Office of the Victim Advocate furthers the intent to ensure that administrators, faculty and students are informed of the rights and services of crime victims and aware of the institutions policies and procedures for reporting criminal activity. The ultimate goal being that our institutions of higher education in the state foster an environment that is safe for its employees and students.

The new Section 2 of the OVA's proposed amendment calls for the establishment of a task force to study and implement a statewide best practices policy for institutions of higher education concerning the student/crime victim population on campuses. In some cases, especially those involving sexual assault, there are many traumas related to the victimization that require consideration for the student/crime victim's safety and ability to continue on the course of their academic studies. The development of a task force to study these issues and make recommendations will address the barriers faced by some student/victims that have suffered due to the lack of awareness and training within the higher education environment.

I strongly urge the Committee to consider the OVA's proposed amendment to enhance the measures of House Bill No. 5031, and in doing so, Connecticut would take the lead in its protections of our college and university students. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,


Michelle Cruz, Esq.
State Victim Advocate



Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

March 6, 2012

Public Hearing

Testimony

By

Barbara O'Connor

Director of Public Safety and Chief of Police

University of Connecticut

Thank you for the opportunity to address you regarding Raised Bill 5031, *An Act Concerning Sexual Violence on College Campuses*. My name is Barbara O'Connor and I am the University's newly appointed Director of Public Safety and Chief of Police. Although I do not officially commence employment with the University until March 9, 2012, given the importance of this issue, I wanted to be here today.

With me today are Elizabeth Conklin, the University's Title IX Coordinator and Interim Associate Vice President of the Office of Diversity and Equity, and Nicole Fournier Gelston, a legal specialist in the University of Connecticut's Attorney General's office.

The University appreciates the legislature's interest in ensuring that Connecticut's institutions of higher education are doing their part to raise awareness of the prevalence of sexual assaults on college campuses and to afford appropriate assistance to the victims of such sexual assault. As the incoming Director of Public Safety and Chief of Police, I am committed to continuing and further developing the close partnership that the UConn Police has developed with the UConn community and administration to respond appropriately and swiftly to reports of sexual assault.

UConn's longstanding practices in response to sexual assault reflect a difficult but important balance between the needs and concerns of victims, the University's ethical responsibility to provide a safe campus environment, and the existing legal framework under which the University is required to operate. This legal framework includes several critical components: (1) Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and its implementing regulations ("Title IX"); (2) the federal Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act ("Clery Act"); and (3) and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"). Each of these regulations proscribes very specific protocols that Universities must follow when responding to sexual assault.

While we would be happy to discuss the numerous complexities and requirements of these Federal laws and regulations and how they would interact with proposed state legislation in this area, we thought it

would be the best use of today's time to describe some of UConn's current initiatives in this important area. For that discussion, I would like to turn the conversation to the University's Title IX Coordinator, Elizabeth Conklin.

In recognition of the complex regulatory scheme and the importance of prevention of and response to sexual assault on campus, the University of Connecticut has adopted an institution-wide comprehensive Sexual Assault Response Policy that demonstrates the University's longstanding commitment and approach to responding to victims of sexual assault on campus in compliance with its ethical and legal obligations. The Sexual Assault Response Policy, which supplements the University's longstanding Policy Statement on Harassment, assists University employees in responding appropriately to reports of sexual assault, including providing information to victims about contacting the police and receiving medical treatment and other critical support services. The policy also promotes a safe campus environment by facilitating on-campus disciplinary processes and involving law enforcement officials in conformity with applicable laws and regulations.

In terms of victim services, members of UConn's longstanding "Community Response Team" work closely with UConn administration and each other to provide a wide range of assistance and support to victims of sexual assaults on campus. This includes, but is not limited to, providing assistance to a victim who decides to press charges with the police and/or to pursue disciplinary action against the alleged perpetrator on campus. Members of the response team additionally are in a position to provide counseling and mental health services, medical assistance, and other on-campus assistance, such as modifications to class and living schedules. Presently, UConn's Community Response Team includes the UConn Police, the Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Eastern Connecticut, Student Health Services, Counseling and Mental Health Services, the Title IX Coordinator, the Office of Community Standards, the Office of Student Services and Advocacy, the Department of Residential Life, the Women's Center, and the Violence against Women Prevention Program. Each of these member organizations is experienced with providing services to victims, and each has worked, and continues to work, in close partnership with the UConn Police. In addition, these University organizations provide education and prevention efforts throughout the year, including discussing issues of sexual assault and consent during orientation and First Year Experience classes, and also holding various ongoing educational events aimed at preventing sexual assault. We are excited to see these efforts continue and expand, in close collaboration with the UConn Police under Chief O'Connor's leadership.

In summary, the policies and response protocols we have outlined today have been developed at UConn with great attention to and mindfulness of existing state and federal regulations. In addition, we have closely followed and implemented best practices as they have developed among leading institutions of higher education nationwide and also statewide.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify today on this complex, important and difficult issue, and we also would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge with gratitude the General Assembly's long-standing support for UConn. We would be happy to answer any questions.

H – 1135

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2012**

**VOL.55
PART 13
4109 – 4473**

lg/cd/ed
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 1, 2012

the House, the member shall rise and address the Chair as Mr. Speaker or Madam Speaker, as the case may be. If two or more rise at the same time, the Speaker shall name the member entitled to the floor, preferring one who rises in place to one who does not. So that's what the rules are.

Now, actually when I first started here I remember standing up and saying "Mr. Speaker." We don't do that anymore. We rely on electronic method to do that, but apparently our electronics are not working as well as they should.

So just kind of a word to the wise, as my mother would say, if you feel that the Speaker is not recognizing you and you feel you've pushed the button, it may not come up on the screen. So please, then, stand up and say Mr. Speaker, Madam Speaker, and the Speaker will recognize you. Okay?

With that, thank you all very much.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Will the Clerk, please call Calendar 376.

THE CLERK:

On page 47, Calendar 376, Substitute for House Bill Number 5031, AN ACT CONCERNING SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON

lg/cd/ed
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 1, 2012

COLLEGE CAMPUSES, a favorable report by the Committee
of Appropriations.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Chair of Higher Education, Representative Willis,
you have the floor, madam.

REP. WILLIS (64th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Good afternoon.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Good afternoon.

REP. WILLIS (64th):

Mr. Speaker, I move for the acceptance of the
joint committees' favorable report and passage of the
bill.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Question's on acceptance of the joint committees'
favorable report and passage of the bill.

Will you remark?

REP. WILLIS (64th):

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This legislation is an important step towards
creating healthier and safer college communities. It
is the first step in this is prevention sexual assault
and intimate partner violence. We must stop it and

prevent it before it occurs, and we have to ensure that colleges provide a supportive response when it occurs.

Sexual violence is a crime. It thrives in silence on college campuses. Approximately one in five women will experience attempted or completed sexual assault at some point during their college careers. This bill asks our schools, both private and public, to play an active role in preventing assaults, preventing sexual assault on college campuses takes a community wide commitment to changing the culture and conditions that allow violence to occur.

This bill only deals with policies a school must adopt and disclose on intimate partner violence. It is not a crime-reporting bill. While it is a victim's prerogative to choose whether or not that he or she will report, it is vital that all students understand the reporting process. Additionally, they need to know if it will be safe, supportive, confidential, and a fair process. Improved disclosure policies related to sexual violence gives students the tools they need to stay safe and make informed decisions about reporting their assaults.

This bill protects students by requiring colleges and universities to adopt and disclose policies related to sexual assault and intimate partner violence, create a plan to how to honor protective and restraining orders, make college campuses disciplinary proceedings uniform and transparent all across all college campuses, and provide students with sexual assault awareness and prevention programming.

I urge support of this legislation.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker Aresimowicz in the Chair.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Thank you very much, madam.

Will you remark further?

Representative Alberts of the 50th District, you have the floor, sir.

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

If I may, one question to the proponent of the bill now before us.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Representative Willis, please prepare yourself.

lg/cd/ed
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 1, 2012

Representative Alberts, please proceed.

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I had the honor of supporting the bill in committee, and I do intend on supporting it as well today because I think this is much in need.

As was brought out -- as the bill was brought out the reference was made that this is to require all public and private colleges to be conformance. .

Will this bill, for the purpose of legislative intent, be applicable to the Coast Guard Academy, which is an institution that comes under the federal government? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Representative Willis.

REP. WILLIS (64th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, it would be my understanding that it would not come under this. They are not a state private or college university, per se.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Representative Alberts.

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

lg/cd/ed
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 1, 2012

And that's what I was afraid, as well. Will there be any initiatives separate from passage of this bill to somehow reach out to the Coast Guard Academy to potentially make them aware of what the State has done if this is -- if this is successful? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Representative Willis.

REP. WILLIS (64th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker to the gentleman, the question also should be answered by saying there is a federal law, the Clery Act, which addresses sexual violence prevention information on -- on campuses and college across the United States and a reporting requirement. It is conceivable that the Coast Guard is already operating under federal law.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Representative Alberts.

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And I thank the proponent for her comments. And, again, I encourage all members of the chamber to support this bill when we do vote on it.

Thank you.

lg/cd/ed
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 1, 2012

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Thank you very much, sir.

Will you remark further?

Representative LeGeyt of the 17th District, you have the floor, sir.

REP. LEGEYT (17th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise in support of this bill and remember very well the public hearing that we had surrounding this bill and the very emotional testimony that was given that day, which to any of us who were there, certainly, let us be sure that we were -- we had a topic of extreme concern on the part of students and college officials and -- and the community at large.

Just for purposes of explanation, if I may, a question to the proponent of the bill?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. LEGEYT (17th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, this bill is a -- all new language but I'm sure that there's plenty of statute already available regarding sexual violence on college campuses. So my question is how does this

lg/cd/ed
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 1, 2012

bill change what's already in practice? Through you,
Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Representative Willis.

REP. WILLIS (64th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

And through you, first thing, that all of our college campuses operate and comply with the Federal Clery Act. What really is added by Connecticut moving forward on this, is we add intimate partner to the definition of sexual violence. We also, in this bill, that's different than Clery, would require contact information; that the schools provide students with information for campuses on where they can get assistance, local advocacy groups that might be of an assistance; where they can get counseling, health counseling, mental health and legal assistance services. So that is -- is all new that is under this legislation that would really go beyond what is law today.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Representative LeGeyt.

REP. LEGEYT (17th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And I thank the Chairwoman of the Higher Education Committee for that answer.

I remember at the public hearing that there were expressions of frustration from officials and from students and from people who were in related employment to colleges for particular issues like this that the existing legislation that we had on the books did not go far enough and that there was frustration that victims of sexual violence felt that at some point they were dismissed and not given the guidance that they needed to proceed further with their concerns and their claims and their ability to get redress and also treatment.

So I'm rising in support of this bill. I think it's entirely appropriate. I think it puts in place legislation that will cover some of those gaps that otherwise exist. And I am, also, pleased that we are including intimate partner violence because clearly from the public hearing that's -- that's a fair part of the sexual violence that occurs, and I think it needs to be codified.

So thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

lg/cd/ed
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 1, 2012

Thank you very much, sir.

Representative Haddad of the 54th District, you have the floor, sir.

REP. HADDAD (54th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation.

I, too, was at the public hearing in the Higher Education Committee where we heard testimony from young women who had been sexually assaulted on college campuses in Connecticut and who did not receive the kind of institutional support that they ought to have received and well deserved.

I think that there are a number of communities -- colleges in our state that do a great job at having policies in place that offer the appropriate support. Still other colleges, I think, need to work harder at making sure that those supports are in place and this legislation will work to ensure that that is, in fact, the case.

I visit the University of Connecticut, it being in my district, quite frequently, and recently had an occasion to see how students themselves organize to combat a culture of rape that oftentimes exists on college campuses, a culture that accepts intimate

lg/cd/ed
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 1, 2012

partner violence and other kinds of violence towards women and was very impressed. It was one of the largest gatherings of students that I've -- that I've ever been to on a college campus. It was very impressive. It's an annual event. And I'm encouraged that this bill, also, works to ensure that there are programs in place that will continue to help students themselves combat the culture that exists on many of our college campuses.

And so I rise in support of this legislation and would like to thank the proponents and the Chair of the Higher Education Committee and also the Republican members of the committee who worked very hard to make sure that this bill was a good one.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Thank you very much, sir.

Representative Srinivasan of the 31st, you have the floor, sir.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Good afternoon, sir.

lg/cd/ed
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 1, 2012

REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

I, too, rise in strong support of this bill. You know when we hear these stories, it, obviously, is almost unimaginable to -- to think what that young lady would have gone through, and I'm definitely would be supporting this piece of legislation.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, if I can have a few questions to the proponent of the bill?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, when I look at this definition of an intimate partner, to whom this bill will apply to. I see it is a spouse, whether they are -- I mean even if they are or no longer married, but when it comes to a dating relationship, the language that I see says that they are in a current dating relationship.

And through you, Mr. Speaker, if the dating relationship is no longer in existence as it is very frequent in college campuses to be in and out of datings with a person. Would this bill still apply in

lg/cd/ed
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 1, 2012

the unfortunate event that there was sexual violence?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Representative Willis.

REP. WILLIS (64th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, yes, that would be an intimate partner, estranged intimate partner. So, yes, that the legislation would apply.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

So through you, Mr. Speaker, so -- so that I understand, even if the relationship is no longer current, it would still apply? If that is the way I understood that; is that right, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Representative Willis.

REP. WILLIS (64th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, that is my understanding.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

lg/cd/ed
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 1, 2012

And through you, Mr. Speaker, one more question to the proponent.

How would we be able to make sure that the privacy and the confidentiality of this young woman is secure, if it were -- if law and order was also involved in the process? Would we still be able to maintain the privacy and confidentiality? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Representative Willis.

REP. WILLIS (64th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, yes. There are provisions in the bill that guarantee both the accuser and the accused during the process of their confidentiality.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And I want to thank the proponent for her answers.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Thank you very much, sir.

lg/cd/ed
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 1, 2012

Representative Sawyer of the 55th, you have the floor, madam.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

A question through you to the Chairwoman of the Higher Education Committee?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

I think she's prepared, please proceed, madam.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It is nice when we are prepared.

In the underlying bill there was \$100,000 fiscal note, and it went through Appropriations as a substitute bill with a few changes in it. Could you please share with the chamber what the fiscal note is on the bill it is before us?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Representative Willis.

REP. WILLIS (64th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, there is no fiscal note on this bill. It is incumbent upon the universities to fund this with existing resources. They already have to comply with the federal Clery Act, so this just adds some more information that they need in

lg/cd/ed
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 1, 2012

terms of programming to get out to students, so I
thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

And through you, Mr. Speaker to the proponent of
the bill, is -- what is in the substitute language it
is very similar to what is occurring presently at the
University of Connecticut? And so at one university,
specifically that we can mention, we are already have
a system in place that it would be easy to replicate
or to adapt to other schools and universities?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Representative Willis.

REP. WILLIS (64th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I'm glad that my
colleague on the Higher Education mentioned what's
being happened -- what's happening at the University
of Connecticut. So many of our colleges across the
state, like the University, have really been proactive
on this issue in having a program. And in fact,
approximately 12 universities private and public in
Connecticut belong to a group on sexual assault, a

lg/cd/ed
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 1, 2012

consortium that meets regularly and deals with these issues and they really have set the bar in Connecticut, I think, on addressing these issues. So they should be applauded for their efforts and, certainly, the University is one of them.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

I'd like to thank the Chairwoman for her answers and all of her work on this particular bill. It is something that is, I think, is a very sensitive and special topic to many, not just women, not just women but to many young people. Certainly, those people going to college are not always 18. There are younger people involved, as well, and I would like to thank all the work she and the care and sensitivity that was taken between she and the Ranking Member and the upper chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Representative Willis, thank you for your answers, Madam.

Representative Sawyer, thank you for your comments.

lg/cd/ed
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 1, 2012

Representative Hetherington of the 125th, you
have the floor, sir.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

A question to the proponent.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Representative Hetherington, please proceed, sir.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Thank you, thank you.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, a few days ago, we
passed the Domestic Violence Act, and there are --
there are several overlaps. For example, the Domestic
Violence Act deals with people in a -- in a dating
relationship. So does this -- this bill talks about
intimate partner violence. Both bills reference the
opportunity to secure protective orders, restraining
orders. Has -- has an effort been made to scan these
bills to see if they really overlap and if they are
coordinated and deal consistently with the same
subjects? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Representative Willis.

REP. WILLIS (64th):

lg/cd/ed
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 1, 2012

Through you, Mr. Speaker, in listening to the debate on the domestic violence bill just the other day, I saw much similarities in terms of intent. The difference here is this bill is really aimed at policies and procedures and prevention programs that would be offered on our state colleges and private universities and ensuring that students, at any college in the State of Connecticut, is treated in the same manner, has access to the same information and resources. That's really the intent of this bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Representative Hetherington.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Well, thank you.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, would the same remedies, though, that apply in the Domestic Violence Act be available to someone subject to these provisions, that is, someone in a -- an institution of higher learning?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Representative Willis.

REP. WILLIS (64th):

lg/cd/ed
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 1, 2012

Through you, Mr. Speaker, this is not a crime-reporting bill as the domestic violence bill that we did the other day. This is, again, about colleges, universities, setting up programs, about setting up disciplinary procedures that are uniform and are clear to students coming in what those policies are and what procedures they might be able to -- to follow when they're confronted with a situation like this.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Representative Hetherington.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, in the education, the information resource programs provided by this bill, would those include the information about those provisions about the Domestic Violence Act that may -- that may apply? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Representative Willis.

REP. WILLIS (64th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, yes, most definitely. That's part of the -- part of the information where students who could go to the school and get written information on the rights of students to obtain a protective order, apply for temporary restraining

lg/cd/ed
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 1, 2012

orders, or how to enforce an existing protective or restraining order. So anything that we would have adopted in other legislation that kind of information, what the law is in the State of Connecticut would be conveyed to them by someone who is experienced in the field.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Representative Hetherington.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

I thank the gentlelady for her answers.

I have consistently supported this bill, and I will do so today. And I'm happy to hear the assurances from the lady that the substantive provisions of the Domestic Violence Act will be made part of the information available to the college, university students who are to benefit from this act.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Thank you very much, sir.

Will you remark further on the bill before us?

Will you remark further on the bill before us?

Representative Mikutel of the 45th District, you have the floor, sir.

REP. MIKUTEL (45th):

lg/cd/ed
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 1, 2012

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

A question for the proponent of the bill, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. MIKUTEL (45th):

I admit that I haven't been following all of this conversation, but I did hear you say that this is not a crime reporting bill; is that correct?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Representative Willis.

REP. WILLIS (64th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, that is correct. This is not a crime-reporting bill, and I'm glad that the bill has gotten some attention.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Representative Mikutel.

REP. MIKUTEL (45th):

Yes, through you, Mr. Speaker, well, just maybe you can clarify something for me and maybe for other people who are listening. If a -- if a parent wanted to determine that the number of sexual assaults that have occurred on a particular college because they're considering sending their child to that college or university, how do they get access to that data?

lg/cd/ed
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 1, 2012

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Representative Willis.

REP. WILLIS (64th):

Thank you.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, that is an excellent question and I'm glad the wise gentleman from East of the River raised that question.

Under the -- right now, under the federal law, the Clery Act, schools must report that information and that needs to be posted. So this information on incidents that might happen on their college campuses that would have to be reported and made available to anyone, including parents, who would want that information.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Representative Mikutel.

REP. MIKUTEL (45th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And thank you for that -- that answer.

Well, this is a great bill, and I certainly am going to support it because it does promote campus safety, and it does reduce the culture of sexual assault that exists on too many of our college campuses. So the bottom line is college students

lg/cd/ed
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 1, 2012

should be -- and their parents should know that their daughters or their sons are safe on our colleges and this bill does help promote that, so I will be supporting it enthusiastically.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Thank you very much, sir.

Will you remark further on the bill before us?

Will you remark further on the bill before us?

The board being cleared and nobody seen standing. Members please take your seats. Staff and guests to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll call. Members to the chamber. The House is taking a roll call vote. Members to the chamber please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted?

Please check the board to ensure that your vote has been properly cast. If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked. The Clerk will take a tally.

lg/cd/ed
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 1, 2012

The Clerk will announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

House Bill Number 5031.

Total number voting	146
Necessary for passage	74
Those voting Yea	146
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	5

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

The bill passes.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 351.

THE CLERK:

On page 20, Calendar 351, Substitute for House Bill Number 5543, AN ACT CONCERNING THE CREATION AND EXPANSION OF MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITIES, favorable report by the Committee on Energy and Technology.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Representative Nardello of the 89th District, you have the floor, madam.

REP. NARDELLO (89th):

Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker.

I move acceptance of the joint committees' favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

S - 648

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2012**

**VOL. 55
PART 13
3941 - 4222**

rc/law/gdm/gbr
SENATE

275
May 8, 2012

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Also calendar page 18, Calendar 458, House Bill 5031.
Move to place the item on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Moving to calendar page 20, where we have one item,
Calendar 468, House Bill 5217. Madam President, move to
place this item on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

On calendar page 21, Calendar 471, House Bill 5164. Move
to place the item on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

On calendar page 22, Calendar 476, House Bill 5263. Move
to place the item on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

rc/law/gdm/gbr
SENATE

278
May 8, 2012

On page 13, Calendar 426, House Bill 5443; on page 14, Calendar 438, House Bill 5347; Page 14, Calendar 439, House Bill 5388; page 15, Calendar 441, House Bill 5501.

Also on page 15, Calendar 442, House Bill 5536; page 16, Calendar 445, House Bill 5145; page 16, Calendar 446, House Bill 5395; on page 16, Calendar 448, House Bill 5414; page 17, Calendar 451, House Bill 5548; page 18, Calendar 456, House Bill 5285.

Also on page 18, Calendar 458, House Bill 5031; on page 20, Calendar 468, House Bill 5217; page 21, Calendar 471, House Bill 5164; page 22, Calendar 476, House Bill 5263.

On page 23, Calendar 485, House Bill 5237. On page 25, Calendar 497, House Bill 5512; page 26, Calendar 502, House Bill 5497; page 26, Calendar 503, House Bill 5409.

On page 28, Calendar 512, House Bill 5424. And on page 30, Calendar 522, House Bill 5289.

THE CHAIR:

That seems correct.

Mr. Clerk, would you please call for a roll call vote on the consent calendar. (Inaudible.)

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate. Will senators please return to the Chamber. Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gomes, would you like to vote, please. Thank you.

If all members have voted, if all members have voted, the machine will be closed.

Mr. Clerk, would you please call a tally.

THE CLERK:

On today's consent calendar,

rc/law/gdm/gbr
SENATE

279
May 8, 2012

Total Number Voting	35	
Necessary for passage	18	
Those Voting Yea	35	
Those Voting Nay	0	
Those Absent and Not Voting		1

THE CHAIR:

The consent calendar passes.

Are there any points of personal privilege or announcements? Are there any points of personal privilege or announcements?

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Yes, Madam President, if there are no announcements or points of personal privilege, we will, of course, be in session tomorrow -- or actually it's later today but -- but not on Thursday. But --

THE CHAIR:

Okay. Promise?

SENATOR LOONEY:

-- we will -- we will convene later this morning. We will have a -- announce the Democratic caucus at eleven followed by session at noon today.

Thank you, Madam President.

With that, would move the Senate stand adjourned, subject to the call of the chair.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir. Everybody drive safely.

On motion of Senator Looney of the 11th, the Senate, at 12:32 a.m. adjourned subject to the call of the chair.