

**Testimony of Clarissa Cincotta**  
**Submitted to the Judiciary Committee**  
**Monday, March 20, 2006**

Good afternoon Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor and members of the Judiciary Committee. For the record my name is Clarissa Cincotta from Trumbull, Connecticut and I am here to urge you to **SUPPORT**:

**Raised House Bill No. 5799, *An Act Concerning Crime Victims and the Victim Advocate***

I have been a victim of stalking since 1996. The 71 year old man was just arrested in July of 2005 when my husband and I caught him throwing a paper towel with a white powdery substance in it on my lawn. My life since 1996 has been one of extreme stress and has been a life lived in fear. Even though he was asked to leave me alone, he always had an explanation as to why he was where he was to be near me. This man was allowed to drive up and down my road several times a day in the four different vehicles that he owned because according to the police, I "did not live on a dead end", even though he lived on the other side of Trumbull and my quiet road led to nowhere. I can no longer enjoy planting my flowers and watering my garden as I stay in my house for fear of seeing him. Even going up to my mailbox or getting my newspaper causes me apprehension.

This man followed me in Stop and Shop. Several times, I turned around while I was in there and found him within five feet of me – smiling as his looked at my body up and down. I would stay in Stop and Shop until he left, only to find him parked near my car waiting for me to leave. As I would leave, he would leave and follow very closely behind me or right next to me in the other lane with a smile on his face, again, nodding his head up and down as he looked at me.

I am very active in my Church – as a matter of fact, my Church is where he first started approaching me asking me to go out with him. He would show up in the Church whenever I was in there which was quite often. He would wait in the back of the Church until he saw me leave through another door and he would go out to his car and wait for me to go to mine. As I walked to my car, he would pull up within a few yards of me and just stare and drive very slowly. When I would be decorating the Church for the major holidays and I would be in there alone, he would be in the back watching me.

I have been told by the police that he had the freedom and the right to be in all these places. I tried to let them know how fearful I was of this man. They basically told me that until he touches me, there was nothing they could do because of "his rights." My life has been a living hell. I don't sleep normally anymore. When I am alone in my house, any noise I hear brings about a lot of anxiety. I've had to seek medical help over this. If I go to take a shower when I'm alone, I lock every door including my bedroom and bathroom door and put my house alarm on. If my security lights go on at night when I'm home alone I start to shake, even though it may just be an animal walking outside. I can't even walk in my neighborhood, because if I hear a noise, such as a squirrel running behind me, I get so scared that I can barely walk back to my home. I was never like this before 1996. This man knew he has a lot more rights than I did when it came to all that

he did to constantly be in my presence. He has tormented me, harassed me and caused me great suffering and distress for nine years.

I ask you to please support Bill 5799 to help victims like me to receive protective orders so that they can live in peace. I also ask that you support and pass the other section of the Bill that give the State Victim Advocate, James Papillo, the tools he needs to effectively carry out his responsibilities for crime victims, as well as the other sections of the Bill because they will directly benefit crime victims in our state.

Respectfully submitted,

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