

03/15/06

State of Connecticut-House and Senate Clerks Offices
Bill #5812
Hartford, Ct

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee-

I am writing this letter in support of the house bill #5812. On September 26, 2003 I discovered that my now ex-husband was molesting my son (who was his stepson). When this happened my whole life changed and I didn't know what to do or where to turn to. Recently moving to Shelton, Ct. in December of 2002 I was alone with my 2 children and my family was scattered, but not too far away. This incident stays with my son and I each and every day but I know we will heal from the pain his acts have caused. As I sat in my home wondering what to do (after I saw what had happened) I waited over 3 weeks before I decided that I could no longer live with what he had done and I had to fight for my son. I spoke with my son's therapist and he told that he was mandated by the State of Ct. to contact the authorities of what had happened. He then told me to call the Milford Rape Crisis Center in Milford, Ct and speak to a woman, Cindy. I was scared at first but when I called her she assured me that she would take care of everything and notify the Shelton PD. She made an appointment with Det. Ben Trabka so we could tell him what happened. Cindy and Mark met Conner, myself and Conner's Dad at the police station and from that day the response that I have received from Cindy has been phenomenal. She was always there for my family and I.. Her support and care for us through this awful time in our lives was a breath of fresh air. She helped me through so many tough times and I often called her "my angel". The MDT team she works with is so important for someone who is going through such a horrible time when you are in shock and dismay, I couldn't imagine how this all would have turned out without them. She followed the case all the way through to a "Guilty" verdict and 30 year sentence to a man that hurt my son beyond words can describe. The whole MDT team was involved in the case including Ben Trabka, Theresa Montelli and Janet Murphy from Yale. I feel it was so important that they were all involved and it made it easier to have to deal with such a horrific crime that has scarred our lives forever. Please pass the bill for them to continue their hard work so they can help someone else who may be in need of their services because with out all of them I know the process would have been so much harder than it had to be. Also, when you are faced with such tragedy in your life you need people like them to support you and your family. Cindy and Ben Trabka came every day to the the trial and sat with me while Conner was on the stand and they met my whole family and talked with each of them. Their support is something I will never forget and even though this was a terrible situation I have to say I have met some wonderful people who have gone beyond the call of duty to help my son, my daughter and myself.

Sincerely,

Noreen Gaffney-Onate