



PATRICIA M. FROEHLICH
STATE'S ATTORNEY

State of Connecticut
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY
JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF WINDHAM

STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
120 SCHOOL STREET
SUITE 208
DANIELSON, CT 06239
TELEPHONE 860-779-8520
FAX 860-779-8521

TESTIMONY OF PATRICIA M. FROEHLICH
STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR THE JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF WINDHAM

IN SUPPORT OF:
H. B. NO. 5812 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGISTRATION
AND SUPERVISION OF SEXUAL OFFENDERS

JOINT COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
MARCH 20, 2006

I would like to support this Bill specifically insofar as it addresses multidisciplinary child abuse teams. I was a member of the Danbury MDT from its inception in 1999 until my appointment to my current position as State's Attorney for the Judicial District of Windham in July, 2001. I have been a member of the Windham Team since July 2001.

In both locations, I have been impressed by the dedication and commitment of the various team members and by the effort to advance and coordinate the prompt investigation of suspected child abuse cases while reducing the trauma of the child and ensuring the child's protection and treatment.

In order to meet the statutory purposes of the Teams, however, it is necessary that there be sufficient funding to support training of team members, coordination of the response, investigation and multidisciplinary approach. We are fortunate that the legislature has since 1996 endorsed a multidisciplinary approach to the investigation of suspected child abuse cases. In some areas of the State the MDTs are able to contract with forensic interviewers, those who specialize in interviewing children. Because we in Windham are in a rural area with limited financial resources and because law enforcement's first responders are frequently called upon to conduct sensitive investigations into allegations of child abuse, I am especially appreciative of the goals of Raised Bill No. 8512 to at this time provide further support to our efforts.

Thank you.