

This statement is in reference to:

**House Bill 5215, an Act Concerning Sexual Assault by Hypnotists**

I went to a certified hypnotherapist for help with anxiety. The purpose of using hypnotism, like any other modality that treats the mind, should be to benefit the client. As a client, my concern should not be that I will be taken advantaged of at a time when my most private and disturbing fears and memories are exposed and entrusted to a caregiver.

I never imagined that working with a “professional” that I trusted and shared personal information with, would later be used to hurt me.

I wasn’t just sexually assaulted by that hypnotherapist.

I was also mentally and emotionally assaulted.

My thinking, morals, and personal belief system was purposely manipulated for his own benefit.

Publicity regarding this case brought a number of women forward to disclose that they too had been taken advantaged of by this so called “Doctor.”

What if that hypnotist was NOT legally accountable for his actions?

What would prevent him from doing it again?

What legal recourse would a victim have?

I came forward to protect other women. That is still my intent, and why I am here today. The prosecution and conviction in my particular case is complete, but unless the law is changed to include “Hypnotists,” other Connecticut citizens are still in danger of being victimized.

In the Connecticut law, Section 1, Subdivision (9) of section 53a-65 of the General Statutes, the word “hypnotist” needs to be included along with the other mental health service providers already listed, making them *legally*, accountable for their actions. To quote Nike, “Just Do it.”