

March 14, 2006

**RE: HB 5812 AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGISTRATION AND SUPERVISION OF SEXUAL OFFENDERS.**

Dear Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor and Judicial Committee Members,

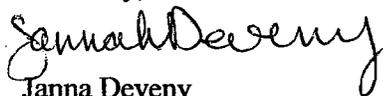
I am a parent and Multidisciplinary Team Coordinator living in Norwich and working in New London County. I am writing to request your support of HB 5812, especially as it addresses the need for state funding of Multidisciplinary Teams/Child Advocacy Centers. This bill is a priority of Speaker Amann's.

In my experience as a Multidisciplinary Team Coordinator, I have become painfully aware of the trauma experienced by both victim and their non-offending parents/caregivers. It has become evident that cases directly involved with a Multidisciplinary system are less traumatizing for the victim. Daily, reports of children being victimized are received by our Child Protection Services (DCF) and Police. A collaborative response is necessary to provide victims with seamless services, from the initial investigation through court disposition of the case. As a result of Multidisciplinary collaborative efforts, the objectives of Megan's Law will be met. Perpetrators will be held responsible for their crimes and families will be afforded the opportunity to remain informed, keeping children safe.

House Speaker James Amann has proposed a bill to strengthen Megan's Law which includes funding for the fifteen (15) Multidisciplinary Teams in Connecticut. This support is critical so that teams can continue the vital work they currently provide and that children who have suffered the horrible trauma of sexual abuse will not be further traumatized by the systems designed to protect them.

I urge you to support HB 5812. Thank you on behalf of the children/families that will be served by your support of this bill.

Sincerely,



Janna Deveny  
Parent, first and foremost  
&  
Coordinator, New London  
County Multidisciplinary Team

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