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**Testimony of James Papillo, State Victim Advocate
Submitted to the Judiciary Committee
Monday, March 13, 2006**

Good afternoon Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee. For the record, my name is James Papillo and I am the Victim Advocate for the State of Connecticut. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT** of:

Raised Senate Bill No. 443, An Act Concerning Domestic Violence

One of the most troubling problems that I hear often from victims of family and domestic violence, and from law enforcement officials as well, relates to the lack of protection that can be afforded to such victims when incidents occur after normal business hours or on the weekends. In situations where someone is arrested for a domestic violence offense and is quickly released on bond, the victim can be "exposed" to further danger and harm because law enforcement officials do not have the authority to issue orders and/or conditions of release that would make it a crime or violation to have any further contact with the victim.

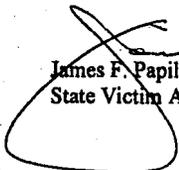
While law enforcement officials often will verbally admonish the accused to have no contact with the victim, if the accused "violates" such a verbal "order," there is no legal consequence for doing so---and many offenders know this all too well. This "gap" in protection for victims of domestic and family violence must be closed.

Raised Senate Bill No. 443 will, in part, provide law enforcement officials with the authority to issue no contact orders to those accused of family or domestic violence crimes and, further, will allow law enforcement officials to arrest those accused of violating such orders as a condition of their release.

Additionally, I strongly support the inclusion of a stun gun or other conductive energy device in the definition of electronic defense weapons for which law enforcement officials may seize in the course of an alleged domestic or family violence investigation.

I strongly urge the committee to support Raised Senate Bill No. 443 which provides victims of domestic and family violence with greater protection for their emotional and physical well-being.

Thank you for considering my testimony.


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