

Testimony of "Jane Doe"
February 23, 2007
Judiciary Committee
HB 7085 - AAC The Statute of Limitations for Prosecution of Certain Sexual Assault Offenses Using DNA Evidence.

Good morning Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor and members of the Judiciary Committee. For the sake of this testimony my name is "Jane Doe". I am submitting to you today testimony in strong support of HB 7085 AAC The Statute of Limitations for Prosecution of Certain Sexual Assault Offenses Using DNA Evidence.

On September 11, 1993 a masked predator entered my home while my children and I lay sleeping in our beds. The assailant took great precaution to conceal his identity by disguising his voice and putting a pillowcase over my head. He then proceeded to tie me up, cut my clothing with a knife and sexually assault me. He then put a gun to my head and threatened to kill me if I called the police.

After he left I was forced to run to a neighbor's for help as he had cut the phone lines to my house. We called 911 and several officers responded to the call and came to my home. At the hospital a couple of hours later, samples of the assailant's DNA were taken from my body and clothing. There were no fingerprints, no photographs, no description of the assailant, just DNA evidence. My husband and I kept pursuing the investigation with the Waterbury police but there was little else they felt they could do. I reached out to Dr. Henry Lee in 1998 in the form of a letter hand delivered by Pudgie Maia, an investigator for the Waterbury States Attorney's office, who had vowed to do all he could to help us. Dr. Lee ordered a re-sampling of the DNA evidence.

Dr. Henry Lee, who was the Commissioner of Public Safety for Connecticut at the time, and his staff at the state lab gave me hope. They also assured me that if the assailant is arrested for another crime in the future and police got his DNA, that we would be able to make a match.

Well, he struck again. John Regan of Waterbury attempted to sexually assault a 21 year-old co-worker last July. At the time of his arrest, he voluntarily gave a DNA sample and it turned out to be a perfect match. On October 22nd 2004 he was arrested, however he was unable to be charged for the crime he committed due to the statute of limitations for sexual assault, which was 5 years at the time. He was only able to be charged with kidnapping in my case. This weakened our case from a trial standpoint and his high-powered attorney's could argue that in a kidnapping charge you must prove movement and I never made it off the bed.

On Halloween night in 2005 he tried to drag a 17 year-old high school teen into his van in a high school parking lot in Saratoga Springs, NY. Thankfully by bracing one foot

against his van, the teen was able to break free. Coaches that heard her screams came to her aid, and Regan was held until the police arrived. Regan had carefully prepared his van, the backseat had been taken out and inside lay a tarp, noose, shovel and syringe loaded with a sedative. There were also pictures of myself and the other CT victim in the van. As many of you are probably aware, John Regan is now the central figure in a national investigation on many cold cases involving sexual assault and homicide.

None of this would have come about had it not been for the DNA evidence, the help of Dr. Henry Lee and the excellent police work done by Waterbury Chief of Police, Neil O'Leary, and his team. John Regan is behind bars today and the world is a safer place.

On July 14, 2006, John Regan plead guilty for attempted kidnapping in New York and was sentenced to 12 years in state prison. On October 26, 2006, John Regan plead guilty under the Alford Doctrine to kidnapping in the first-degree for my case and first degree unlawful restraint and stalking for the attack on his 21 year old co-worker in CT. Regan was sentenced to 15 years in prison for all the CT cases. The sentence will be served concurrently with his New York sentence so in actuality he received 3 years for all the CT cases.

This is not enough. Regan should be charged with the crime he committed in my case, which is first degree sexual assault. There is DNA evidence and he was armed with a gun and a knife. He is dangerous and calculating, and it has been proven that he is a repeat offender. I fear for my life when he gets out and believe he will attack other innocent victims. I will do all that I can to insure that the laws are changed to reflect justice and protect the innocent.

I fully support HBBill No. 7085

AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR PROSECUTION OF CERTAIN SEXUAL ASSAULT OFFENSES USING DNA EVIDENCE.

I would like to thank the Governor's initiative on this bill and thank you in advance for your support.

I also strongly believe that this bill should be retroactive and I am willing to do all that I can to make this happen.

Sincerely,
Jane Doe
1993 Victim