



# CONNECTICUT POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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## Testimony to the Judiciary Committee

March 12, 2007

**Chiefs Anthony Salvatore & James Strillacci, Connecticut Police Chiefs Association**

We support **RB #7313, AAC Domestic Violence**, which provides protection for victims of family violence where there is now a gap—the period between the offender's release from custody and his first court appearance.

As many domestic fights happen on nights and weekends, a victim must wait hours or even days for a protective order to be issued. There is nothing to prevent an offender from making bond, returning to the scene of the crime, and starting over.

The bill would allow police to set non-financial conditions of release when a domestic abuser posts bond. These conditions would serve as an interim protective order and would expire on the defendant's appearance in court.

The conditions would be selected from a limited list designed to prevent a repeat offense or worse before court opens; for example—avoid contact with the victim; don't go back to her home; do not possess alcohol, drugs, or a weapon. Police often give similar advice to offenders now, but their admonitions lack the force of law.

The proposed conditions are still less restrictive than the alternative, which is to lock the offender up until court.

We encourage you to help prevent family violence by passing this bill.

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