



Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc.

96 Pitkin Street
East Hartford, CT 06108
Phone/TTY: 860-282-9881
Fax: 860-291-9335
www.connsacs.org

Testimony of Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc.

Laura Cordes, Director of Policy & Advocacy

HB 7313 AN ACT CONCERNING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Submitted to the Judiciary Committee

Public Hearing, March 12, 2007

Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor, and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Laura Cordes. I am the Director of Policy & Advocacy with the Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc. (CONNSACS). CONNSACS is the statewide association of nine community-based rape crisis centers in Connecticut. Our mission is to end sexual violence and ensure high quality, comprehensive and culturally competent sexual assault victim services.

During fiscal year 2005-2006, CONNSACS' community-based program staff and volunteers provided services to 4,326 sexual assault victims and their families. Our member centers also provided risk reduction and prevention education to more than 46,000 children and youth and to over 8,000 members of the general public and training for nearly 3,400 professionals, including law enforcement personnel.

We submit this testimony in support of HB 731: *AN ACT CONCERNING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE*. This bill would expand the tools that police officers have when setting conditions of release for individuals charged with the commission of a family violence crime, to keep victims of domestic violence safe. Victims of domestic violence are often at great risk when separated from the offender. With a victim's input, non-financial conditions of release not only send a message to the offender that the police understand the dynamics of abuse, but when applied, can add additional measures of safety for victims during an investigation.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our position and for your consideration. Should you have questions with regard to CONNSACS' position on this bill, please feel free to contact me.