

February 28, 2008

Lourdes E. Montalvo
PO Box 948
1519 West Main Street
Willimantic, CT 06226
860.465.9281

I am here to support House Bill HH5622 and to urge you to support any effort to increase access to services for victims of domestic violence.

Presently, all domestic violence programs have on site staff from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday to Friday and limited evening and weekend hours. The program provides one person who is "on call" to respond to the 24 hour hotline and to go to the shelter.

However, with 27/7 victims of domestic violence will have instant access to staff. Victims deserve to get the help they need and the attention they deserve. Furthermore, the counseling environment is important. In order to be effective, counseling must take place in a conducive environment. The victim of domestic violence needs to feel safe and protected. This families need know that we care. They have to see that they are going to get the support they need and deserve. We must provide quality community based services whether it is one o'clock in the afternoon or four o'clock in the morning.

24/7 will help to provided professional and emotional support for our clients and their families who have been traumatized. It is a fact that most victims have to leave immediately because they are concerned about their safety and they do not have time to asked questions. Most woman do not know that they have legal rights. A counselor will be able to provide answers and some if not all information necessary. 24/7 will ensure that Domestic Violence Victims and their families will have comfort and support immediately after they are abused.

Majority if not all domestic violence victims fears become breathtaking late at night because during the day they are busy dealing with applications, schools and looking for services that they are going to need in order to start all over again. It is not until they go to their room at night when the start thinking about the psychological, physical and sexual abuse they have been for months and more likely for years. For these reasons and many others

- It is at 10, 11pm or 2 am when they need comfort and someone to let them know that was not their fault.
- To provide support because their 5 years old child want to go back home because they miss their toys, bedroom and pet.
- Because their 14 years old do not understand that mom is trying to protect them and they blame mom for everything.

- This is the perfect time to provided power and control counseling
- Is the right time to provide equality counseling.
- It is the time to let the victim know that they do not need to go back if they do not want to. That it is going to be difficult but our program can help with the transition.
- 4 o'clock in the morning might be the only chance for them to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Furthermore, DV-P breaks the cycle of violence. Therefore helps the state save money in many other programs such as police, ambulance and hospitals. 24/7 is support, education and awareness for our victims and future generations.

Domestic Violence isn't something that happens to someone else. It is our family, our friends, and our coworkers. We must work together to make every home a safe home.

CHANGE

*I walk down the street.
 There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
 I fall in.
 I am lost ... I am helpless.
 It takes me forever to get out.
 I walk down the same street.
 There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
 I pretend I don't see it.
 I fall in again.
 I can't believe I am in the same place.
 But it isn't my responsibility.
 It still takes a long time to get out.
 I walk down the same street.
 There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
 I still fall in ... it's a habit ... but,
 my eyes are open.
 I know where I am.
 I walk down the same street.
 There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
 I walk around it.
 I walk down another street.*

by Portia Nelson

*comment is
 for Portia
 Center of
 The Universe*

Please join me and the victims in supporting this needed service.
 From the bottom of my heart, Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,



Lourdes Montalvo,
 DV-P Bilingual Client Advocate