

Testimony of David Magnano

Judiciary Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly

Monday March 10, 2008

IN SUPPORT OF
HB 5875- AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF FAMILY
VIOLENCE VICTIMS IN FAMILY RELATIONS MATTERS

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. I am David Magnano. Jennifer was my mother and Scott was my father. Ten months, twenty-six days and about fifteen hours ago my mother, two sisters, and I fled to California to escape an abusive situation. I am here today to testify in support of HB 5875 because the court system failed us. We relied on and followed the current system and it failed us. And because of that, my sisters and I are now without our mother. My nine-year old sister now lives on the other side of the country, the other side of the continent. And for the rest of her childhood and the rest of my childhood, we will get to see each other maybe five or six times a year. I will have to live the rest of my life with the memory of my parents with bullet wounds in their faces. The last time that I saw my father, he was lying on a cot with a hole in the roof of his mouth and the back of his head. The last time I saw my mother half of her jaw was gone, lying on the steps beside her. Blood drenched her hair and everything around her. These are the last images I have of my parents. Those memories, those images will haunt me until the day I die. Every moment, up until the minute that she died, all my mom cared about was us, her children and our safety. Even as Scott held the gun to her head, all she said was "not here, not in front of the kids." She was an honest woman who always followed the rules, and she was a good mother, and she paid the price for it.

My father was an abusive, sinful man, and the laws were in his favor. He was manipulative and corrupt and yet, the courts and the laws were in his favor. The courts, the police, every government agency involved did nothing to protect my mom. Even after she died the police did nothing, making me and my nine-year old sister walk by my mother's uncovered body after she had been laying there for

hours. I covered my sister's eyes, but this made me have to see her for the second time like that.

Six months, seventeen days and about fifteen hours have passed since I lost my mother, since we lost our mom. In that time, I have found that I have trouble concentrating, and trouble enjoying anything at all. I can't help but blame the system, blame the government. I personally refuse to pledge allegiance to the flag anymore because of this incident, because I have lost hope in the government and in this country.

I will end this by quoting my mother when she said to me, "I do not want to be just another statistic." We are here today to make sure that my mother is NOT "just another statistic".