



Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc.

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Testimony of Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc.
Elizabeth Cafarella, Director of Public Policy and Communication
Submitted to the Appropriations Committee
Public Hearing, February 11, 2009

My name is Elizabeth Cafarella, and I am the Director of Public Policy and Communication at 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.

I would like to offer my testimony in support of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women. We have worked with PCSW in various capacities over the years, most recently on the successful campaign to pass legislation to provide Emergency Contraception to all rape victims, and for the past three years they have joined with us and other organizations on the SANE/SAFE coalition, which has worked to find the most cost-effective and efficient way to care for rape victims in emergency departments.

PCSW has always recognized the importance of ending sexual violence against women, protecting comprehensive reproductive health care, identifying gender disparities in health care access, and the emerging problem of trafficking in humans. There is still much progress to made in all of these areas. I urge the committee to consider PCSW's contributions to women and to the state of Connecticut, and allow them to continue their fine work.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at ecafarella@connsacs.org