



Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence
90 Pitkin Street
East Hartford, CT 06108
860 282-7899

To: Education Committee

From: Linda Blozie
Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Date: March 1, 2010

Re: RB 5315: An Act Concerning Education and the Reduction of Domestic Violence

Good evening, Senator Gaffey, Representative Fleischmann and members of the Education Committee. My name is Linda Blozie and I am the Director of Public Affairs for the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Thank you for accepting my testimony regarding Raised Bill 5315: An Act Concerning Education and the Reduction of Domestic Violence.

In a recent study conducted by students at Capital Prep Magnet School in Hartford, 33% of the respondents, ages 10-19, reported that they knew someone who had experienced dating violence in their relationship. In this same survey, 63% of the students also reported that they would be most likely to talk with a trusted adult if they were experiencing violence in their relationship or if they had a friend who was being abused. Based upon my conversations with teenagers, I feel safe in saying that one of these trusted adults is someone's teacher. As students spend a majority of their time in school, we must adequately prepare all teachers for the challenges they face when working with teenagers. One of these issues is dating violence.

I am here today to speak in support of Raised Bill 5315. By educating teachers on teen dating violence, we can give them the tools and resources to intervene and respond when these situations occur. At CCADV, our goal is to stop dating violence before it starts. During the preteen and teen years, young people are learning skills they need to form positive relationships with others. This is the ideal time to promote healthy relationships and prevent patterns of dating violence that can last into adulthood.

Thank you for any positive consideration you give this bill.