5246 HS
5497 JUD

I Alvin A. Notice SUPPORT bill 5246 and all its recommendations for the distribution of the marriage license surcharge and changes to the landlord and tenant to benefit victims of domestic violence. I am also supporting bill 5497 and all its recommendations to implement employment protections, Electronic monitoring of offenders, court procedure and other protection for victims of domestic violence. I would like to speak on the subject of GPS and the need for it to be kept in the proposal. I would also like consideration on establishing a monitoring site within the state of Connecticut as opposed to outside the state borders.

Tiana Angelique Notice was murdered on February 14, 2009, Valentine's Day. She had taken out a restraining order against her abuser and on the day she was murdered, she was within five hours of returning from the police station, where she had just dropped off more evidence that he had been to her apartment and in this case – the previous day. He was repeatedly stalking her prior to finally stabbing her to death. One week after Tiana's murder, probable cause was found and her abuser was charged with violating the restraining orders (including one on the day she was murdered). Tiana repeatedly went to the police with complaints, but nothing was done. While the violations were being investigated, she was being murdered.

GPS monitoring would have been particularly critical in Tiana's case because where law enforcement had failed to protect Tiana adequately and appropriately by following up on Tiana's repeated reports of violations of the restraining order, she could have had GPS monitoring to fill that void. Had Tiana had access to GPS monitoring of her abuser she would have known that he was stalking her prior to her getting home. I would have paid any money for her protection. I have been in the Department of Correction for twenty eight (28) years. As a Deputy Superintendent of Operations and the Department of Correction's Crisis Negotiator Director/Commander for the last 7 years, I know what it takes to talk someone down. You have to have a deterrent force to meet the challenge. For Domestic Violence an excellent deterrent is GPS.

Evidence of this is an article published on Friday, March 12, 2010 in the Pekin Daily Times, called "Manhunt ends with capture," by Sharon Woods Harris. Basically, local authorities apprehended an alleged attempted murderer who cut off an ankle monitoring bracelet and triggered a nationwide alert. Aaron "Garth" Baecker, 63, of 2011 Desoto Court, Pekin, was indicted by a Tazewell County grand jury on Feb. 4 for the attempted first-degree murder of his wife and aggravated domestic battery on Jan. 25. Because of the GPS alert, his wife's life was saved. This further proves that GPS monitoring would be effective.

My Daughter, Tiana Notice and other victims' lives are worth more than $9,100.00 dollars per year which is the $25 per day plan. I would definitely pay $9,100.00 if it meant I could see my daughter alive today. Money should never be the deciding factor when it comes to saving lives. Let's break the silence on domestic violence today and pass this bill.

I would also point out that you need to keep in mind that it cost approximately $35,000.00 to $40,000.00 to keep an inmate in prison, compare $9,100.00 dollars. With that said, there is a 70% chance that a person going to prison will likely offend within the first six month of being release.

Based on the NCADV facts sheet on Domestic Violence cases:

- 1.3 million women are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year
- 73% of family violence victims are females
- 84% of Females were spousal abuse victims
- 86% of abuse victims are at the hands of a boyfriend
- Historically, females have been most often victimized by someone they knew
- Females who are 20-24 years of age are at the greatest risk to intimate partner violence. The cost of intimate partner violence exceeds 5.8 billion each year, 4.1 billion of which is for medical and metal health services.

Additionally, I would like to recommend use of the Danger assessment form created by Jacquelyn C. Campbell of John Hopkins University, School of Nursing. I would also suggest that they require all Domestic Violence Agency throughout the state, including the police department to use these forms during there initial intake with a victim.

I would also ask that you consider making an amendment to ensure that the abuser doesn't manipulate the system to get a GPS on his/her victim as was done by Tiana's abuser getting an order on her.

Additionally, by using the Danger Assessment form and keeping it on file, it would show a record of patterned behavior. By going back 10 years it will be more effective to see this pattern. Additionally, any Domestic Violence incident should remain on record regardless if the abuser attends an anger management class recommended by the courts.

Submitted by

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Manhunt ends with capture

By Sharon Woods Harris
Pekin Daily Times
Fri Mar 12, 2010, 08:00 AM CST

PEKIN, Ill. -

Local authorities have apprehended an alleged attempted murderer who cut off an ankle monitoring bracelet and triggered a nationwide alert.

Aaron "Garth" Baecker, 63, of 2011 Desoto Court, Pekin, was indicted by a Tazewell County grand jury on Feb. 4 for the attempted first-degree murder of his wife and aggravated domestic battery on Jan. 25. He and his wife own an insurance agency in Pekin. He was released from the Tazewell County Justice Center on 10 percent of a $250,000 bond on Feb. 5.

Baecker cut off his electronic monitoring device at about 5 p.m. on Allentown Road west of Springfield Road, said John Horan of the Tazewell County Probation Department. The monitoring device shows a suspect's whereabouts within three feet.

The probation department quickly secured Baecker's wife and moved her to a safe location, said Horan.

Baecker was located a short time later near Mackinaw in a vehicle headed toward Tremont.
Because of the nature of Baecker's alleged crime, his case fell under the "Cindy Bischof Law," which allows the court to order an abuser to wear a GPS tracking device as a condition of bail in instances in which a restraining order has been violated.

The legislation, which took effect Jan. 1, 2009, was in response to the death of Bischof. Her ex-boyfriend was able to obtain a gun, stalk her and shoot her outside her insurance agency business.

Attempted first-degree murder is a Class X felony; aggravated domestic battery is a Class 2 felony; and obstructing justice is a Class 4 felony.

As a condition of his bond, Tenth Judicial Circuit Court Judge Richard Grawey had ordered Baecker to surrender his passport and have no contact with his place of business after noon daily, court records say.
The alleged crime

According to police reports, Baecker took the 61-year-old victim to Pekin Hospital for treatment of her wounds. Court records indicate that the victim had to have staples in her head to close injuries. The hospital notified police that it was believed the wounds were from domestic violence — not from a fall down the stairs, as hospital staff were told.

According to the bill of indictment, Baecker "Performed a substantial step toward the commission of (attempted first-degree murder) in that he, with the intent to kill, struck (the victim) with a wooden stick and shoved her."

The indictment for obstructing justice alleges that, "With the intent to obstruct the prosecution (of) Aaron Garth Baecker, for the offense of attempt(ed) first-degree murder, (Baecker) knowingly destroyed, altered or concealed physical evidence, being the sheets and clothing."
Horan said, "All of the authorities involved did an excellent job. It worked as it should. She is safe."

DANGER ASSESSMENT

Jacquelyn C. Campbell, PhD, RN, FAAN

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Corrections to calendar scale 2/3/2010

Several risk factors have been associated with increased risk of homicides (murders) of women and men in violent relationships. We cannot predict what will happen in your case, but we would like you to be aware of the danger of homicide in situations of abuse and for you to see how many of the risk factors apply to your situation.

Using the calendar, please mark the approximate dates during the past year when you were abused by your partner or ex partner. Write on that date how bad the incident was according to the following scale:

1. Slapping, pushing; no injuries and/or lasting pain
2. Punching, kicking; bruises, cuts, and/or continuing pain
3. "Beating up"; severe contusions, burns, broken bones
4. Threat to use weapon; head injury, internal injury, permanent injury, miscarriage, choking
5. Use of weapon; wounds from weapon

(If **any** of the descriptions for the higher number apply, use the higher number.)

Mark **Yes** or **No** for each of the following.
("He" refers to your husband, partner, ex-husband, ex-partner, or whoever is currently physically hurting you.)

Yes	No		
_____	_____	1.	Has the physical violence increased in severity or frequency over the past year?
_____	_____	2.	Does he own a gun?
_____	_____	3.	Have you left him after living together during the past year? 3a. (If have *never* lived with him, check here___)
_____	_____	4.	Is he unemployed?
_____	_____	5.	Has he ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a lethal weapon? 5a. (If yes, was the weapon a gun?____)
_____	_____	6.	Does he threaten to kill you?
_____	_____	7.	Has he avoided being arrested for domestic violence?
_____	_____	8.	Do you have a child that is not his?
_____	_____	9.	Has he ever forced you to have sex when you did not wish to do so?
_____	_____	10.	Does he ever try to choke you?
_____	_____	11.	Does he use illegal drugs? By drugs, I mean "uppers" or amphetamines, Meth, speed, angel dust, cocaine, "crack", street drugs or mixtures.
_____	_____	12.	Is he an alcoholic or problem drinker?
_____	_____	13.	Does he control most or all of your daily activities? (For instance: does he tell you who you can be friends with, when you can see your family, how much money you can use, or when you can take the car? (If he tries, but you do not let him, check here: ____)
_____	_____	14.	Is he violently and constantly jealous of you? (For instance, does he say "If I can't have you, no one can.")
_____	_____	15.	Have you ever been beaten by him while you were pregnant? (If you have never been pregnant by him, check here: ____)
_____	_____	16.	Has he ever threatened or tried to commit suicide?
_____	_____	17.	Does he threaten to harm your children?
_____	_____	18.	Do you believe he is capable of killing you?
_____	_____	19.	Does he follow or spy on you, leave threatening notes or messages on answering machine, destroy your property, or call you when you don't want him to?
_____	_____	20.	Have you ever threatened or tried to commit suicide?
_____			Total "Yes" Answers

Thank you. Please talk to your nurse, advocate or counselor about what the Danger Assessment means in terms of your situation.