

Thank you to the Chairs and the members of the health committee for having this hearing. I am Claude Holcomb, and I reside at 2 Park Place Apt 4-F Hartford Connecticut.

I am here to speak in favor of Senate bill, 315, concerning sexual assault of a developmentally disabled or severely physically disabled person. I have my own private history with this issue and I know more people with severe disabilities who have been sexually assaulted. Many of these cases are not reported, by people with disabilities old and young. In one case, a young adult daughter was living with her mother, who cared for her at home. The young woman reported that she was sexually assaulted by her mother's boyfriend. The rapist had been tried, his peers found him guilty. After all of this, the mother remained with the boyfriend.

If we get right down to the point, that is why we are having this hearing I am sorry to say one of our sisters in the disability community needed to have to go through this to change a law to add people with severe and developmental disabilities to be covered under this law, because of a loop hole in this law. Her rapist, an able-bodied man sat in jail just for a year, because a loop hole was in the charge for this rape. So that this does not happen again, please put this language in this law, two parts needs to be added on under 11 and G:

(11) the ability of such other person to resist or consent to such sexual intercourse is substantially impaired because of a mental or physical condition or advanced age and the actor knows or has reasonable cause to believe that the ability of such other person to resist or consent to such sexual intercourse is so impaired.

(G) a person whose ability to resist or consent to such sexual contact is substantially impaired because of a mental or physical condition or advanced age and the actor knows or has reasonable cause to believe that the ability of such other person to resist or consent to such sexual contact is so impaired;

Maybe this will let the judiciary system work better for people with disabilities and the elderly who are sexually assaulted.

Thank you very much for letting me speak on this subject!