



# State of Connecticut

## Police Officer Standards and Training Council

### Connecticut Police Academy



Testimony Submitted to the Judiciary Committee

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Raised Bill No. 6629

### AN ACT CONCERNING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

As Executive Director of the Police Officer Standards and Training Council, I am here to speak in favor of this Raised Bill. In terms of Law Enforcement Training, this Raised Bill eliminates a conflict that exists in current legislation.

Sec. 46b-38a (2) of the General Statutes of Connecticut defines "Family or household member" among other definitions as "(F) persons in, or have recently been in, a dating relationship."

Sec. 46b-38a (3) in part defines a "Family violence crime" as "a crime as defined in section 53a-24 which, in addition to its other elements, contains as an element thereof an act of family violence to a family member" etc.

The current language of Sec. 3. Section 46b-38b (a) however, suggests an exception for family violence crimes involving a dating relationship from mandatory arrest. The language contained in Raised Bill No. 6629 corrects this conflict.

Additionally, this Raised Bill includes "a pattern of verbal intimidation, threatening or stalking" as a category for which a family or household member who has been subjected to such conduct may make an application to the Superior Court for relief. These are common tactics employed by a perpetrator of domestic violence.

Finally, in terms of Law Enforcement response and Law Enforcement training, the Police Officer Standards and Training Council already has developed a Statewide Policy and is updated as statutory changes evolve or as new issues arise. Perhaps a Task Force would not be necessary.

If a Task Force is organized under the provisions of this raised bill, then I would suggest that a member of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association be included as a member.



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