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**TESTIMONY ON BILL REGARDING SB NO. 954 AN ACT CONCERNING THE  
ELECTRONIC RECORDING OF CUSTODIAL INTERROGATIONS**

My name is Mickey Herbst, and I live in Westport. I have a 35 year old daughter with intellectual disabilities who has been my inspiration to become active as an advocate for her and her peers since she was born.

I have come to know some of the loveliest, most kind and most willing to please people in all of society. People who are a little different, a little slower, and a little less likely to make a lot of friends, use every tool at their disposal to overcome these traits to get the approval and acceptance that we all crave.

Unfortunately, this creates tragic consequences for some of them, when they encounter the criminal justice system. We know that scores of people with intellectual disabilities who confessed to crimes and were convicted have been exonerated after spending years in jail for crimes they did not commit. Nobody knows how many more are still incarcerated or have been executed for crimes they did not commit.

It is not acceptable that after having the technology for decades, Connecticut still does not require the video recording of custodial interrogations. This simple change in policy will make it possible to review the process, and lead to more objective outcomes. The reasons for resistance to doing so, simply are not good enough. The law needs to change to help prevent false confessions in the future. As a parent, and an advocate for people with intellectual disabilities, I urge you to pass this legislation now.

Thank you,

Mickey Herbst