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Testimony in favor of HB 6425 and SB 1035

It's been almost forty years since my father was murdered. While no one can *understand* why a loved one is murdered, the mystery surrounding my father's death has weighed heavily on me these many years. My father's case is a "cold case", one of thousands of murders each year that goes unresolved.

Having some context as to how and why my father was taken from us would have helped me to process the horrifying loss. I'm left frustrated that when my father was murdered there were not enough resources and investigators available to sufficiently delve into my father's case, as well as hundreds of others.

While I want to know more about why my father was killed, I never imagined that finding the perpetrator and enacting revenge would help me with my healing. The death penalty could not bring back my father.

What has helped, after all these years, is finally sharing my story with others who know what it means to lose a loved one to murder. Finding a safe place to remember my father, share my heartache, be supported, and provide support has been wonderful. It has helped to surround myself with others who recognize that the death penalty fails murder victims' survivors by highlighting a few cases while so many have been stamped "cold", and are then all but forgotten.

Here in Connecticut we know we spend at least \$4 million each year on capital cases. This is above and beyond what we would pay to house inmates for life. Instead of investing so much time and money in a few capital cases, I believe we would be much better off investing in real solutions for victims; families. Additional resources to solve cold cases would help victims; more effective crime prevention programs would help victims; support groups and counseling would help help victims. The death penalty is not a justifiable solution for victims. I hope you will vote to repeal the death penalty.