

February 21, 2012

Senator Harp
Representative Walker

Appropriations Comm.

Thank you for the opportunity to address you.

My name is Elizabeth Barrett, when people ask me how many children I have I say four, the truth is I only have three because my daughter Kathleen was murdered on March 7th, 2006. Our lives forever changed on that day. Her three children were left without a mother, her siblings without a sister, my husband and I without our daughter. We were thrown into a world we knew nothing about, the judicial system filled with twist and turns. Her case has not been an easy one to solve. I can't tell you how many times we were told its going to be solved, told, "We know who did it, it's just a matter of getting enough evidence." After almost 6 years there has been no arrest, no justice, and the murderers continue to walk free. In August 2011, The Branford Police Dept agreed to give our daughter's case to the Cold Case Unit; we were told due to their case load they would start working on Kathy's case in January 2012. The Cold Case Unit has solved many murders and we had hopes they could solve Kathy's, and maybe we as a family could find some resolution. Life will never been the same for any of us. Murder leaves you feeling vulnerable, everyone in this room should feel vulnerable, this does happen to normal people, it happened to us. There are at least 700 unsolved murders in CT, these people are walking our streets, and some of them will kill again. Bill 5014 line item T, 190 cuts 3.2 million dollars from judicial personnel. This affects The Cold Case Unit which will be defunct without funds for personnel, I ask you to think very carefully before you make this cut. I speak for my daughter, for she no longer has a voice. Please say no to these cuts. Let me end by telling you that when murder strikes your family, it goes to bed with you, it sits at the breakfast table with you, it's always by your side, making a very, very difficult life to live.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Barrett
Signature