

Testimony of Amber-Lynn Dunphy
In Support of **HB 5031, An Act Concerning Sexual Violence on College Campuses**
Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee
Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee:

I am writing in support of HB 5031, *An Act Concerning Sexual Violence on College Campuses*. My name is Amber-Lynn Dunphy and I am currently an adult student at the University of New Haven. I was born, raised and still reside in Waterbury, CT, however.

During the course of my studies at the University of New Haven, I have also been an intern with Jane Doe No More, Inc. for the past year. During my work with Jane Doe No More, I have encountered several women who had been sexually assaulted while students on college campuses. As many of you may be aware, the majority of completed rapes have occurred in the dorm rooms of the victims. Although the University of New Haven currently has a very strict police concerning sexual violence on campus, it is my understanding that this is not the standard for all Connecticut institutes of higher education. Through my work with Jane Doe No More, and as a college student, I wholeheartedly believe that it is imperative that all campuses have strict policies in place concerning the reporting and handling of sexual assaults, as well education for all incoming students and new employees as to the proper procedures for reporting sexual assaults, as well as the disciplinary actions that would be taken by the institution.

Unfortunately, many sexual assaults go unreported because the victim did not know the proper procedure in reporting the assault or did not believe the school would take disciplinary action against the offender. By having these policies in place, it is hoped that more victims will step forward or, more importantly, that more potential offenders will think twice before acting.

By passing HB 5031, it will ensure that all institutes of higher learning in Connecticut will be required to become more aware of this epidemic of sexual assaults on college campuses and will begin to work towards eliminating this terrifying event.

Thank you.

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Amber L. Dunphy
ACJA Tolerance Committee Chair