

March 12, 2012
Judiciary Committee
Bill 247

In FAVOR OF **SB 247 AN ACT CONCERNING SEXUAL ASSAULT OF PERSONS WHOSE ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE LACK OF CONSENT IS SUBSTANTIALLY IMPAIRED**

Good Afternoon Senator Coleman, Representative Fox, Senator Doyle, and Representative Holder-Winfield and members of the committee:

My name is Mary Ann Langton and I live in West Hartford. I encourage you to support **SB 247 AN ACT CONCERNING SEXUAL ASSAULT OF PERSONS WHOSE ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE LACK OF CONSENT IS SUBSTANTIALLY IMPAIRED**. The bill is essential to people with disabilities. This bill would permit additional safeguards to people with disabilities who cannot communicate consent to sexual intercourse when the attacker knows about the victim's inability or challenges in communicating their consent to sexual intercourse.

I have significant disabilities, travel in my community by using my power wheelchair, take the public transportation including having the choice to take the bus to my employment. I attend meetings and other events during the day or in the evening so my life is just like yours.

I have been emotionally and physically abused. My attacker tried to strangle me on two occasions but I was fortunate to be able to fight him off of me. The attacker was also emotionally abusive to me. These abusive acts led to me being depressed and feeling worthless for a few years until I rebuilt my life.

I hope you will see the importance and urgency of passing SB 247 that would give better protection to rights of women with disabilities. I would feel more secure with the passing of this bill.

Thank you,
Mary Ann Langton
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