



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF VICTIM ADVOCATE  
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Michelle S. Cruz, Esq.  
State Victim Advocate

Testimony of Michelle Cruz, Esq., State Victim Advocate  
Submitted to the Judiciary Committee  
Monday, March 12, 2012

Good morning Senator Coleman, Representative Fox and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee. For the record, my name is Michelle Cruz and I am the Victim Advocate for the State of Connecticut. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning:

**Raised House Bill No. 5366, *An Act concerning Civil Actions and Subpoenas Filed to Harass an Individual or After Numerous Actions Against the Individual Have Been Dismissed.* (Support)**

The Office of the Victim Advocate (OVA) has assisted many victims, predominantly victim of domestic violence that have been continually and legally harassed, threatened and harmed by their abuser through endless civil or family filings that are intended to maintain control and power over the victim. Raised House Bill No. 5366 will provide victims with some level of protection against this continued abuse and harassment. I strongly encourage the Committee to vote favorably on Raised House Bill No. 5366.

**Raised Senate Bill No. 247, *An Act Concerning the Sexual Assault of Persons Whose Ability to Communicate Lack of Consent is Substantially Impaired* (Support)**

The proposal attempts to clarify that sexual intercourse or sexual contact with a person whose ability to communicate lack of consent to such sexual activity is substantially impaired because of a mental or physical condition.

The Office of the Victim Advocate (OVA) supports the intent of Raised Senate Bill No. 247, however, after discussions with prosecutors familiar in criminal matters involving sexual assault, I would strongly encourage the Committee to seek the advice and recommendations of the prosecutors to ensure that the proposal does not unduly limit the prosecutors' ability to seek a prosecution in appropriate criminal matters.

Thank you for consideration of my testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle S. Cruz".

Michelle Cruz, Esq.  
State Victim Advocate