



**Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc.**

96 Pitkin Street • East Hartford, CT 06108 • Phone: 860-282-9881 • Fax: 860-291-9335 • [www.connsacs.org](http://www.connsacs.org)

**Testimony of Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services  
In Support of SB 870, AN ACT CONCERNING VICTIM COMPENSATION  
and In Support of SB 871, AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO VARIOUS STATUTES  
CONCERNING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM  
Anna Doroghazi, Director of Public Policy and Communication  
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing, Monday, March 4, 2013**

Senator Coleman, Representative Fox, and members of the Judiciary Committee: my name is Anna Doroghazi, and I am the Director of Public Policy and Communication for Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services (CONNSACS). CONNSACS is the coalition of Connecticut's nine community-based sexual assault crisis services programs, which provide sexual assault counseling and victim advocacy to men, women, and children of all ages. During our last fiscal year, advocates throughout the state provided hospital and court accompaniment, support groups, individual counseling, 24/7 hotline support, and post-conviction services to over 7,000 victims and survivors of sexual violence. We would like to express our support for Section 12 of SB 870 (AAC Victim Compensation) and offer support and recommendations for SB 871 (AAC Revisions to Various Statutes Concerning the Criminal Justice System).

Victim compensation helps victims/survivors recover financially and emotionally following the trauma of a sexual assault, and CONNSACS is careful to monitor any statutory changes that would impact a survivors' access to compensation. Although Section 12 of SB 870 would eliminate language related to compensation eligibility and sexual assault forensic evidence collection, we support it because provisions elsewhere in statute (Sec. 54-209) are sufficient to extend eligibility to sexual assault survivors.

CONNSACS also supports Section 3 of SB 871, which makes revisions to Connecticut's voyeurism statute. Voyeurism is not a victimless crime, and it has real emotional, psychological, and financial consequences for victims. Advocates at Connecticut's sexual assault crisis services programs work with clients who were videotaped or photographed without their knowledge or consent, and in many of these cases, victims are not aware of recordings or photographs until well after the violation occurs. One voyeurism survivor who sought services at a CONNSACS' member programs was recorded by an ex-boyfriend in her bedroom and bathroom for over a year before she discovered that he had been sending videos of her to her friends and acquaintances. She was so humiliated and felt so unsafe in her home that she was forced to move and nearly lost her job because the trauma of the experience impacted her ability to focus at work.

Because of the level of harm that voyeurism victims experience, we support an increase in penalties for repeat voyeurism offenses, offenses involving young victims, and offenses in which the voyeur has been previously convicted of sexual offenses. We also support expanding the offense to better hold offenders accountable when they commit simple trespass and violate a person's privacy in order to satisfy a sexual desire.

We also support SB 871's tolling provision that allows voyeurism to be prosecuted five years from the date on which the victim discovers the existence of a photograph, film, videotape, or

other recording. In our digital age, the passage of time can amplify the harm of voyeurism. Photographs and videos can be disseminated with great ease, and by the time victims realize that their privacy has been violated, unauthorized and compromising photos can be spread literally around the world. These images and videos can impact victims' reputations and hurt their ability to find work or advance their careers; this harm does not have an expiration date, and victims should have the option of pursuing justice once they discover that their privacy has been violated.

Given that this harm is common to *all* victims of voyeurism regardless of an offender's motivation, we would like to recommend a change to the existing legislation. SB 871 would add a tolling provision only for voyeurism offenses in which the offender acts with malice as provided in subdivision (1) or subsection (a) of Sec. 53a-189a. We strongly believe that there should also be a tolling provision in place for offenses in which offenders act "with intent to arouse or satisfy the sexual desire of such person or any other person," as provided in subdivision (2) of subsection (a). The discovery of unauthorized and prurient images is traumatic for victims regardless of their offenders' motivations. Please consider adding a tolling provision to better hold voyeurs accountable when they act out of "sexual desire".

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Anna Doroghazi  
[anna@connsacs.org](mailto:anna@connsacs.org)