



Testimony of The Center for Sexual Assault Crisis Services  
In support of HB 6664 An Act Concerning Restraining Orders  
Tracy Guglieri, Counselor/Adult Advocate  
Judiciary Committee, March 25, 2013

Honorable members of the Judiciary committee, my name is Tracy Guglieri, and I am a Counselor with The Center for Sexual Assault Crisis Counseling and Education located in Stamford, CT. The Center provides counseling and educational services to the eight towns of lower Fairfield County. During the last fiscal year The Center has provided counseling services to 550 survivors of sexual assault. In addition to our counseling services we also provide educational programs and conferences to the communities that we service. I am writing to you in support of HB 6664, An Act Concerning Restraining Orders.

As a counselor for trauma survivors, this bill will be so very beneficial to survivors of stalking and sexual assault. This bill will extend eligibility for civil restraining orders for survivors. It will allow them to start to regain a sense of safety in their lives by having a legal document protecting them from their abuser. Currently, Connecticut law only allows sexual assault and stalking survivors to apply for a restraining order if their offender is a family household member, it does not account for acquaintances, strangers, or any person of authority. With acquaintance rape being the most common type of sexual assault (80% of victims know their abuser) the current bill does not protect those individuals. Also, 36% of stalking victims are not eligible for restraining orders because they are stalked by someone other than a current or former family member. HB 6664 would allow all of survivors, regardless of who the perpetrator is, to be protected.

HB 6664 would prevent many sexual assault survivors from falling through the cracks. Survivors deserve the option of accessing a restraining order regardless of who stalked or assaulted them. As we know at The Center, many sexual assault cases do not result in an arrest, and those survivors are not allowed to even have the option to pursue a criminal protective order. Again, civil restraining orders would provide a sense of safety and protection for sexual assault and stalking survivors who might not have any other "safety net" available to them.

**Thank you for considering this important piece of legislation. We hope that you will join us in supporting HB 6664.**

Tracy Guglieri  
*Counselor/Adult Advocate*  
The Center for Sexual Assault Crisis Counseling and Education  
700 Canal Street Suite 22B  
Stamford, CT 06902  
Phone (203)348-9346  
Email: [t.guglieri@thecenter-ct.org](mailto:t.guglieri@thecenter-ct.org)