

April 15, 2013

Judiciary Committee  
Room 2500,  
Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Support for Raised Bill No. 6702, Sec. 1 (Economic/Financial Protections for Victims of Domestic Violence in Restraining Orders (46b-15))

Dear Sen. Coleman, Rep. Fox, and the Judiciary Committee:

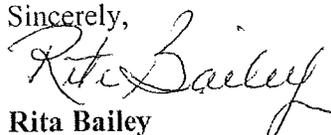
My name is **Rita Bailey**. I write to encourage you to support the proposal in Raised Bill No. 6702 which would allow victims of domestic violence seeking restraining orders to ensure their economic survival as part of that process.

While not commonly understood, economic abuse is a tactic frequently used by abusers to ensure the dependency of their victim. In fact, **98% of all abusive relationships involve some form of financial abuse**. Tragically, access to economic resources is the best predictor of whether or not a victim will be able to successfully and permanently separate from her abuser. Without proper economic protection, victims are confronted with the agonizing choice of staying in an abusive relationship or leaving and facing extreme poverty, reliance on state assistance, and/or homelessness. The proposal outlined in Raised Bill No. 6702, which would allow victims of domestic violence to obtain time limited financial orders as part of the restraining order process, would provide immediate financial protection that could mean the difference between staying or leaving.

Recognizing the monumental impact economic protections have on a victim's ability to keep her and her children safe, **more than 37 other states across the country have outlined similar protections in their restraining order laws**. Well respected national institutions like the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and the Battered Women's Justice Project have recognized the importance of such protections. The proposal, as outlined in Raised Bill No. 6702, would bring Connecticut in line with the overwhelming national trend and provide critical protections for a victim of domestic violence attempting to remove herself and her children from a dangerous situation.

For those reasons, I urge you to support the language as currently drafted in the raised bill.\*

Sincerely,



**Rita Bailey**  
Co Chairman Darien Domestic Abuse Partnership

\*Provided that the word "ceasing" is removed.

