

**Written testimony in support of HB 6015**  
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The ability to dial 9-1-1 is a reassurance to all citizens, that in the event of an emergency-- in that moment of genuine panic-- we all have an effective means to call for help.

**Sometimes 9-1-1 calls can be silly in nature. Such as "my cat is stuck up a tree."**

**Sometimes 9-1-1 calls are serious: Automobile accidents. Heart attacks. Violent Crimes.**

**9-1-1 calls can also be more chronic in nature: The same house of college kids having loud parties. Repeated drug dealing on the same street corner. A perpetually angry neighbor. Repeat domestics to the same address.**

Regarding noise, drugs and other criminal activities-- there are endless laws on federal, state and local levels to effectively deal with these issues. I'd like to focus on the one issue of domestic violence.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: As frustrating as some of the more "petty" domestic 9-1-1 calls might be, domestic issues can not be taken lightly.

I am sure most of you are familiar with the severity of the Tracey Thurman case which incited the "Thurman Law" in 1985. This tragic case involved dozens of 9-1-1 calls.

More recently, in 2009, previous House Speaker, Christopher G. Donovan assembled a Task Force on Domestic violence. This task force brought about the most sweeping reforms to domestic violence laws in over 25 years.

In 2012, based on the Task Force on Domestic Violence's recommendations, (HB 5548) passed the Connecticut House of Representatives by a vote of 147-0.

I'll quote the chair of this task force, State Representative Mae Flexer, "Today's bill makes things easier for victims in what can be a harrowing and traumatic experience. It also strengthens the tools needed to punish offenders."

Furthermore, Donovan said, "With increasing numbers of people using texting as their primary way of communicating, the task force would like to see a 911 texting system implemented statewide. Unfortunately there are a number of technical barriers to implementing 911 texting, so the legislation requires the Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of developing a 911 texting system."

We not only have unanimous, bipartisan agreement resulting from an enormous effort against domestic violence.

We also have intentions to expand the capabilities of the current 9-1-1 system to better serve the community.

**Finally, your diligent efforts to protect the community against domestic violence continues as a proactive movement--- In fact, I believe there is a forum slated for later this month to further discuss advancements in the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Featuring Congressman John Larson and state Rep. Mae Flexer.**

Quoting Congressman John Larson from 1-23-13, "I am proud of our state and local leaders in Connecticut who for years have made domestic violence prevention a priority. The 113th Congress now has the opportunity to reauthorize this act, and continue our mission to end domestic violence."

All of this—

This entire battle against domestic violence—

It begins with a single call to 9-1-1.

It is enforced with further calls to 9-1-1.

At this point, how can we even humor assigning a monetary value to a life saving 9-1-1 call? It seems contradictory to everything you have been working so hard to establish.

All of this domestic violence legislation comes into play—**FOLLOWING THE CALL TO 9-1-1.**

I urge you, in the name of justice, pass HB 6015-- and claim another unanimous, bipartisan victory.

Thank you for your consideration.