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**Higher Education and Employment Advancement Hearing
February 26, 2014
Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 5029**

Submitted by: Janiece Lara, Southern Connecticut State University Bachelors of Science Social Work Student

Good afternoon members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee. My name is Janiece Lara and I am a BSW major at Southern Connecticut State University student. I currently reside in Meriden CT. Thank you for taking the time in addressing this issue.

I am here this morning in support of H.B. 5029.

Sexual assault is a crime and should be considered especially heinous. Sexual Assault is a term that includes sexual harassment, undesirable sexual interaction, child sexual abuse, incest, and rape. Sexual contact develops as assault when a person is incapable to or does not agree to an activity. According to the New Haven Sexual Assault Crisis Services 22% of all sexual assault victims are between the usual college ages of 18-24 years of age" (National Center for Victims of Crime, 1992). One out of every six college women are sexually assaulted while in college" (Martin, 1992). "One-half of college sexual assaults occur in the victim's residence and an additional one-third take place in off-campus student housing" (1995, U.S. Dept. of Justice).

*Information provided by the Greater New Haven Sexual Assault Crisis Services. Although, these statistics are considerably old they still hold great value in today's day-and-age on college campuses. I am currently a college student who has lived in a resident's hall for many years. I have seen many issues when it comes to student's sexual contact. Improving campus sexual assault within the campuses grounds will present an opportunity to develop a needed plan to address this particular problem. Sexual assault on or off campuses is an issue that is of a great concern especially being a former college student myself. This is something that should not be taken lightly because it happens every day. This testimony is in support of H.B. 5029. I would like to ask the committee to vote the bill favorably out of committee. I thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

Thank you,
Janiece Lara, SCSU
BSW Student