

Legal Assistance Resource Center

❖ of Connecticut, Inc. ❖

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H.B. 5593 -- Domestic violence

Judiciary Committee public hearing -- March 31, 2014
Testimony of Raphael L. Podolsky

Recommended Committee action: **AMENDMENT**

We support this bill but request a clarifying amendment to Section 34. As drafted, Section 34 makes it a Class A misdemeanor for "any person" to "knowingly" disclose the location of a domestic violence emergency shelter. Our concern is that this could lead to the arrest of the victim if she were to tell a parent or a close friend where she is staying, even if she has no malicious intent. We believe that this is not the intent of the drafters of the bill. The problem is that "knowingly" in line 1059 refers to "knowingly disclose," rather than to "knowing that a disclosure will cause harm." It appears that California and Washington (and possibly other states) require that disclosure be made "maliciously." This would limit the criminal penalty to a person who discloses for an improper purpose.

We suggest that the word "knowingly" in line 1059 of the bill be changed to "maliciously."