

Public hearing

February 27, 2014

Testimony in support of SB 203

Submitted by Emily Lifanda, SWK student at Southern Connecticut State University

Good morning members of the Children's Committee. My name is Emily Lifanda and I am a student at Southern Connecticut State University, department of Social work and a single mother of one. Thank you for this great opportunity, it feels very good that my opinion here is valued and taken into consideration. Going through the Bills, I came across this one that caught my attention SB- 203 which is An Act concerning a State -wide Sexual Abuse and assault awareness program. On a personal level I have never been sexually assaulted but I have witnessed sexual assault in one of my closest friends and what it did to her. If you people agree to pass this law it will be a very good thing. Student from grade six upward should be able know what sexual assault is and the damage it can cause and this can help them to either not be victims or victimizers.

Teaching children at an early age what sexual assault is will go a long way to save them from trauma should incase it happens. Being able to identify it will make them understand early on that it is wrong. And they have the right to know the different types of sexual assault. Teaching them how to report it, and making them understand that it is not their fault that it happen to them. My friend almost took her own life thank God that she had a great social

support around her when the issue came out. She felt ashamed, she did not want to tell anyone about it because she did not want fingers to be pointed at her or that she be looked upon differently. Statistics has shown that most people who get raped end up committing suicide or molest others or leave a very insecure life style. How can they suffer for something which is no fault of theirs? People have to be educated early about things like this. Education has never hurt anyone; instead it has brought light to many. Being aware of things is not a crime, children have to understand that they have to report sexual assault it does not matter how or by whom it happened; it is crime.

Moreover I don't agree that anyone should be exempted what so ever. If this sexual awareness program is implemented in school then everyone has to participate. This uniform policies that need to passed needs to learn by everyone because one of those children who are singled out might end up being a victim or victimizers. Everyone has a right to their opinion, those who are not in support of this I wish I can convince them. This bill will help our community and create awareness in the life of the younger generation. Please I call on you all to vote for this bill it is one of those awareness programs that our community needs

Thank you very much for letting me expresses my mind

Emily Lifanda; Student Southern CT State University.