



Testimony of Jennifer Wenderoth  
Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Milford  
Department of Public Health Rape Crisis line item

Members of the Appropriations Committee, my name is Jennifer Wenderoth and I am the College Advocate for the Rape Crisis Center of Milford that serve the towns of Ansonia, Oxford Orange, Seymour, Shelton, West Haven and Milford and I am writing in support of the Department of Public Health, Rape Crisis line item.

For the past 5 years I have worked at members centers that are part of the Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services and have seen well over 300 clients. These clients are victims of sexual assault, an assault that happened when they were a child, an assault that happened a few years ago or an assault that just recently happened. These victims were assaulted by a friend, parent, spouse, boss, stranger or someone they just knew.

A victim loses a lot after an assault and it is the crisis centers that help them to regain control, power, hope, strength and a future. I have worked with victims whom were suicidal and never thought they could make it to tomorrow, who are now living their lives and fulfilling their dreams.

Last year the Rape Crisis line item had its first increase in over 20 years, to take it away would be taking something away from victims of sexual assault. These victims have already had enough taken away from them when they were assaulted, there is no need to take away funding that helps them move forward and that helps to prevent future assaults from happening.

This budget cut is almost 1/3 of the total Rape Crisis line item. Making this cut would be taking away advocacy to victims of sexual assault and their families, a loss in violence prevention, and assistance to college sexual violence efforts. This line item directly affects the member centers, which in turn directly affects the victims of sexual assault.

I hope you will join me in the effort to help victims of sexual assault, and not take more away from them.

Thank you,  
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