



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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RANKING MEMBER  
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MEMBER  
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ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

#### Government Administration and Elections Committee Public Testimony Wednesday, February 25th, 2015

#### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 5793, AN ACT ESTABLISHING SAFE HAVEN DAY.

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Cassano, Representative Jutila; Vice Chairs Senator Gerratana, Representative Alexander; Ranking Members Senator McLachlan, Representative Smith; and esteemed members of the Committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in strong support of House Bill 5793, which aims to establish April 2<sup>nd</sup> as Safe Haven Day throughout the state. The Safe Haven Act went into effect on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2000 and since its inception, it has had a profound impact on the lives of infants and their mothers. According the Department of Children and Families, the lives of twenty-four infants have been saved. Each of these infants has been placed in either an adoptive or foster home. Despite such comforting results, there are members of our community who are still unaware of the good that comes from this law. To this end, a group of legislators both Democrat and Republican; former legislators and stakeholders have been meeting. The Safe Haven working group have been developing a public outreach campaign including: developing bi-lingual posters for distribution, creating a social media presence and logos, working with area hospitals and ambulance organizations and developing a relationship with a young women who was convicted of this preventable tragedy. We hope to produce a PSA filming her and communicating that this Act saves two lives—the mother and the baby.

On August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014, a newborn was tragically found dead in the trash can of a home in East Hartford. The life of this child was stolen because the mother was unaware of her options. The enactment of a day to recognize Safe Havens can save the lives of newborns and give everybody involved a second chance. Please help give infants and their mothers have a second chance at life by proclaiming April 2<sup>nd</sup> as Safe Haven Day.

Best Regards,

Melissa Ziobron  
State Representative, 34<sup>th</sup> District