

**Testimony in Support of H.B. 5793: An Act Establishing Safe Haven Day**  
**Christen Cassidy**  
**Human Services Committee**  
**February 25, 2015**

**Good Afternoon Co-Chairs Senator Cassano, Representative Jutila; Vice Chairs Senator Gerratana, Representative Alexander; Ranking Members Senator McLachlan, Representative Smith; and Distinguished Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee,**

My name is Christen Cassidy. I am a University of Connecticut MSW Candidate with a passion to promote the well-being of Connecticut's children, youth, and families. I testify today on behalf of Raised Bill H.B. 5793, An Act Establishing Safe Haven Day.

Having a designated day to recognize this Law will bring much needed awareness and that is imperative. It is critical that mothers of all ages know they have options and help is available instead of unsafe abandonment of a child.

Many babies have lost their lives and mothers have been prosecuted throughout the years. Fourteen baby's lives have been saved since this law was enacted in 2000. To hear that fourteen infants have been saved is good news but not good enough in my opinion. We as a society have the responsibility to protect these children and in doing so means educating the public, and in my opinion there is no better way than to have a designated day to encourage this.

It is crucial to have such a day to bring about more awareness and to further assist in saving the lives of more infants in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.