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Testimony of Natasha M. Pierre, Esq., State Victim Advocate
Submitted to the Judiciary Committee
Friday, March 6, 2015

Good afternoon Senator Coleman, Representative Tong and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee. For the record, my name is Natasha Pierre and I am the Victim Advocate for the State of Connecticut. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning:

House Bill No. 6921, *An Act Concerning Invasions of Privacy*

The Office of the Victim Advocate is in full support of House Bill No. 6921 as it will address gaps in our current voyeurism laws, protect the identity of victims of voyeurism and establish a criminal offense and penalty for the unlawful dissemination of intimate images when the conduct is done with intent to harass, annoy or terrorize the person in the images.

Whether a person is shopping at a store, visiting a state park, enjoying a night out or safely within the confines of one's home, no person should have to worry about whether they are being videotaped or photographed in secret. Current law does not adequately address this issue. *Section 1 of the proposal* will strengthen the current voyeurism law to ensure that such instances are not only a violation of the law but also that any individual convicted of voyeurism is held accountable for the depraved behavior.

Section 8 of the proposal establishes the offense and penalty of unlawful dissemination of an intimate image, also known as "revenge porn." While a victim of "revenge porn" may have consented to or shared intimate photos during an intimate relationship, sadly, if the relationship ends badly, those photos may later be used to embarrass and harass the victim. There is no guarantee that any intimate relationship will last forever, however, a person should not have to worry that sensitive photographs or video captured while times were good, will be publically displayed if the relationship ends.

I urge the Committee's favorable report of House Bill No. 6921. Thank you for consideration of my testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

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