CCDLA
"Ready in the Defense of Liberty"
Founded 1988

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March 4, 2015

The Honorable Eric D. Coleman
The Honorable William Tong
Chairmen
Joint Committee on Judiciary
Room 2500, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Re: Raised Bill No. 6923 – An Act Concerning Sexual Conduct

Dear Chairmen and Committee Members:

The Connecticut Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (CCDLA) is a statewide organization of over 300 licensed lawyers, in both the public and private sectors, dedicated to defending persons accused of criminal offenses. Founded in 1988, the CCDLA works to improve the criminal justice system by ensuring that the individual rights guaranteed by the Connecticut and United States constitutions are applied fairly and equally and that those rights are not diminished.

With regard to **Raised Bill No. 6923, An Act Concerning Sexual Assault,** the CCDLA endorses the testimony of Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Legal Counsel for the Office of the Chief Public Defender regarding the language as drafted in subsection (2) of Section of 1 which would amend C.G.S. 54-86f to limit disclosure of evidence to a defendant. The CCDLA is particularly concerned that, as drafted, the language in this section would impinge upon a person's constitutional right to notice of the charges and evidence against him/her as guaranteed by our state and federal constitutions. Additionally, as drafted, this limiting language could lead to a violation of a defendant's right to effective assistance of counsel.

The CCDLA joins with the Office of the Chief Public Defender in proposing that the language of subsection (2) of Section 1 be modified to address the above concerns. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

Elisa L. Villa
President, CCDLA
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