

TESTIMONY ON SB 1035: AN ACT CONCERNING WORKPLACE BULLYING

TESTIMONY OF ALEXANDRA MARAVEL RE: RAISED BILL NO. 1035

I strongly oppose Raised Bill No. 1035 for the following reasons:

- 1) It deals with bullying and abusive conduct ONLY in the workplace of state employees and, as such, is far too limited in scope. There is a model bill called the Healthy Workplace Act that deals with such conduct in ALL workplaces. Ignoring a model bill that is adequate in scope to the problem in favor of a narrow bill aimed only at state employees is like putting a Band-Aid on a gaping wound.
- 2) My own experience with abusive conduct in the workplace was not as a state or public employee. Raised Bill No. 1035 deliberately leaves employees in the private sector without any help or attention whatsoever. It is completely inadequate to this important problem. Workplace violence, abusive conduct, and all forms of bullying take place in ALL workplaces.
- 3) Raised Bill No. 1035 offers only state employee training, recommendations for future policies and procedures regarding state employees, and an annual report by a POLITICALLY appointed advisory board with no power or authority to help even those state employees who suffer from this abusive conduct. THIS IS SIMPLY NOT ENOUGH.
- 4) Passing this bill instead of a broader bill like the model Healthy Workplace Act gives the impression that the General Assembly is dealing with this problem. It is just that, an impression. Raised Bill No. 1035 shows that the General Assembly is NOT committed to healthier workplaces for ALL Connecticut workers are or who may be subject to abusive conduct in the workplace.
- 5) I urge the Labor Committee NOT to pass this bill.
- 6) I urge the Labor Committee to focus on making ALL workplaces in Connecticut safe.
- 7) I urge the Labor Committee to use the model Healthy Workplace Act as a design for comprehensive legislation on this important, vicious problem in our state.

Thank you for your attention to my concerns.

Alexandra Maravel