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Testimony of Natasha M. Pierre, Esq., State Victim Advocate
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Good afternoon Senator Larson, Representative Dargan and distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security 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. 6971, *An Act Concerning the Use of a Global Positioning System*

Global Positioning Systems (GPS) help society in a number of ways—to track rental cars; to manage a patient with Alzheimer's; to locate a stolen motor vehicle; and to effectively monitor the movements of a violent perpetrator. Unfortunately, as helpful as GPS can be when used in legal methods, GPS can be also be used, illegally, to terrorize, torment and instill fear into a stalking victim. House Bill No. 6971 will include the use of GPS as an unlawful method of stalking.

With the advancements in technology, stalking today requires little effort on the part of the stalker. This virtual tool, GPS, is easily accessible and allows a stalker to know the victim's every movement while maintaining their own anonymity. Victims often find themselves constantly looking over their shoulder, but never see anything out of the ordinary. Victims may move, change jobs and alter traveling routes in an attempt to thwart a suspected stalker, all the while, not realizing that the stalker has unfettered access to their whereabouts. Victims may suffer fear, anxiety, insomnia, social dysfunction and depression as a result of the stalking and often feel the stalking will never end.

While it is nearly impossible to predict the future of technology, it is incumbent upon us to ensure that such advancements are not used unlawfully. I strongly urge the Committee's favorable report of House Bill No. 6971.

Respectfully submitted,


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