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Testimony of Natasha M. Pierre, Esq., State Victim Advocate
Submitted to the Public Health Committee
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Good afternoon Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and distinguished members of the Public Health 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. 5904, *An Act Requiring the Establishment of an Elder Abuse Registry*

Elder abuse can include physical abuse, sexual abuse, financial abuse, emotional abuse and neglect. While each form of abuse, individually, is deplorable, the sad reality is that an elderly victim is likely to suffer more than one form of abuse. House Bill No. 5904 will require the establishment of an elder abuse registry to provide elders and their family members with important information about health care providers that have been convicted of this heinous crime.

Much like the Sex Offender Registry, information is critical when deciding the appropriate care of our most vulnerable populations, our children and our senior citizens. Absent this important information, family members may contract with an individual to care for an elderly relative, not realizing that the individual was previously convicted of abuse of an elderly. Additionally, the information contained in the elder abuse registry would benefit facilities that hire individuals for the care of elders.

I strongly urge the Committee's favorable report of House Bill No. 5904. Thank you for consideration of my testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

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