

The Center for
Family Justice
(Bridgeport)
203-333-2233 hotline
203-334-6154 office

CONNECTICUT ALLIANCE TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE



Support. Advocate. Prevent.

formerly CONNSACS

Women's Center
of Greater Danbury
203-731-5204 hotline
203-731-5200 office

Women & Families Center
(Meriden)
203-235-9297 office
(Middletown)
203-344-1474 office
(New Haven)
203-235-4444 hotline
203-389-5010 office

Rape Crisis Center
of Milford
203-878-1212 hotline
203-874-8712 office

YWCA New Britain Sexual
Assault Crisis Services
(New Britain)
860-223-1787 hotline
860-225-4681 office
(Hartford)
860-547-1022 hotline
860-241-9271 office

The Center for Sexual Assault
Crisis Counseling and Education
(Stamford)
203-329-2929 hotline
203-348-9346 office

Susan B. Anthony Project
(Torrington)
860-482-7133 hotline
860-489-3798 office

Safe Haven
of Greater Waterbury
203-753-3613 hotline
203-753-3613 office

Sexual Assault Crisis
Center of Eastern
Connecticut
(Willimantic)
860-456-2789 hotline
860-456-3595 office
(New London)
860-437-7766 hotline
860-442-0604 office

Testimony of Deb Heinrich, Director of Policy and Public Relations Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence (formerly CONNSACS)

Judiciary Committee In Support of SB363 An Act Concerning Revisions to Various Statutes Concerning the Criminal Justice System

March 7, 2016

Good Afternoon Senator Coleman, Representative Tong, Senator Kissel, Representative Rebimbas and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Deb Heinrich and I am Director of Policy and Public Relations for Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence (formerly CONNSACS). The Alliance is the state's leading voice to end sexual violence. We are a coalition of nine community-based sexual assault crisis services programs, which provide free and confidential sexual assault crisis counseling and victim advocacy to thousands of women, men and children across Connecticut each year.

We are testifying Support of SB363 An Act Concerning Revisions to Various Statutes Concerning the Criminal Justice System

We would like to express our support for the provisions in this bill that will protect survivors of sexual assault where the defendant is allowed to benefit from a diversionary program which results in the underlying case being dismissed or not prosecuted. It is estimated that only 2% of cases of sexual assault result in conviction. Many times, offenders plead down to lesser charges or take advantage of diversionary programs or prosecutors decide to enter nolle prosequi. At present, contact restrictions are removed when offenders take advantage of diversionary programs or if prosecutors enter nolle. Section 5 of SB363 adds a provision that will still allow a court, if deemed appropriate, to issue a standing criminal protective order that restricts contact with the survivor in these cases. This is an important protection and we urge approval.

In addition, we would like to express support for expanding privacy protections to those who have been the victims of sexual assault in spousal or cohabitating relationships in sections 8 and 9. Survivors of sexual assault who are married to or living with the offender deserve the same privacy rights and protections as any person who has experienced sexual violence.

Thank you for raising SB363 and considering our support for sections 5, 8, and 9.

Deb Heinrich, Director of Policy and Public Relations
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