

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

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

CONNECTICUT ALLIANCE TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE



Support. Advocate. Prevent.

formerly CONNSACS

Testimony of Deb Heinrich, Director of Policy and Public Relations Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence (formerly CONNSACS) Labor and Public Employees Committee In support of SB221 An Act Concerning Paid Family and Medical Leave March 7, 2016

Good afternoon Senator Gomes, Representative Tercyak, Senator Hwang, Representative Rutigliano and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. My name is Deb Heinrich and I am Director of Policy and Public Relations at 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 speaking in support of SB 221 An Act Concerning Paid Family and Medical Leave.

As advocates for survivors of sexual violence, we would like to stress how devastating it can be to experience sexual assault. It can dramatically affect both the physical and mental health of the person who has experienced this trauma. It is important that survivors have an opportunity to access the healthcare they need to begin the process of reclaiming their power and their lives. The absence of the option for Paid Family Leave can present a barrier to accessing these services for many people whether it is because their employer does not meet the size threshold to activate the Family and Medical Leave Act or it is because their leave would be unpaid and present a true financial hardship.

Our advocates work closely with survivors of sexual violence and we cannot emphasize enough the importance of having the option for survivors to access crisis services when they need them the most. Therefore we support creating a system of paid family leave for Connecticut workers and urge passage of SB221.

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1-888-568-8332 ESPAÑOL