

**COMMISSION OFFICERS**

Mary Lee A. Kiernan, *Chair*  
Catherine Emmsky, *Vice Chair*  
Lucia A. Aschettino, *Secretary*  
Hilda C. Nieves, *Treasurer*

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Carolyn M. Treiss

Connecticut General Assembly



**PCSW**

Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

*The State's leading force for women's equality*

**COMMISSIONERS**

Maritza Bond  
JoAnn Calnen  
April Capone  
Susan Eastwood  
April Guilbault  
Karen Jarmoc  
Antonia Moran  
Melanie O'Brien  
Helene Shay  
Susan Toliver  
Patricia E.M. Whitcombe

**HONORARY MEMBERS**

Barbara DeBaptiste  
Connie Dice  
Patricia T. Hendel  
Patricia Russo

**Testimony of  
The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women  
Submitted to the  
Judiciary Committee  
March 7, 2016**

**RE: S.B. 324, AN ACT CONCERNING A TEMPORARY HOLDING PERIOD FOR CERTAIN FAMILY VIOLENCE ARRESTEES**

Senators Coleman and Kissel, Representatives Tong and Rebimbas, and distinguished members of the Judiciary committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) in support of S.B. 324, An Act Concerning a Temporary Holding Period for Certain Family Violence Arrestees.

In each year of the 21st century, approximately 1,200 women have been killed by their current or former intimate partner.<sup>1</sup> Connecticut averaged 14 intimate partner homicides annually between 2000 and 2012.<sup>2</sup> Thanks to the work of Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell on an instrument that determines the level of danger an abused woman has of being killed by her intimate partner, Connecticut has an opportunity to join at least 6 other states in enacting a public policy that may prevent intimate partner homicide.<sup>3</sup>

S.B. 324 would allow certain family violence offenders to be held without bail for 8 hours when certain risk factors are present at the time of arrest or anytime preceding release – the very same lethality risk factors identified in Dr. Campbell's instrument. These include, (1) the use or threatened use of a deadly weapon by the arrested person or a pattern of prior conduct involving the use or threatened use of a deadly weapon against the alleged victim or a minor child of the arrested person or alleged victim, (2) a threat by the arrested person to seriously injure or kill the alleged victim or a minor child of the arrested person or alleged victim, (3) a threat by the arrested person to commit suicide, or (4) that the arrested person inflicted a serious physical injury upon the alleged victim or minor child of the arrested person or alleged victim.

Currently, when someone suspected of domestic violence is able to make bond, they are released from jail immediately following an arrest. The hours following an arrest of domestic violence can be particularly volatile. S.B. 324 can provide a lifesaving protection against those offenders who are most likely to use fatal violence.

<sup>1</sup> Fox & Zawitz, 2004.

<sup>2</sup> Upon Further Examination: 2014 Findings & Recommendations of the Connecticut Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee. Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, July 2014.

<sup>3</sup> The Danger Assessment. Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, 2015.