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**In support of:**

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

Good Morning Senator Coleman, Representative Tong, members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 324 AN ACT CONCERNING A TEMPORARY HOLDING PERIOD FOR CERTAIN FAMILY VIOLENCE ARRESTEES.

The purpose of this bill is to provide protection for victims of domestic violence who face an immediate threat of violence. If a person is charged with a crime involving domestic violence, the victim is likely in immediate danger of retaliation. In order that the victim can make provisions for his or her safety, this bill requires that the perpetrator is confined for 12 hours without bond under certain specific circumstances.

Specifically, under this proposal, any person charged with commission of a family violence crime (as defined in section 46b-38a), or violation of a restraining or protective order issued pursuant to 46b-15 or 46b-38c (e), must be held without bond for a period of 12 hours following his arrest if at the time of arrest or any time preceding release, the police officer finds any of the following factors: (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 violence with a firearm against the victim; (2) threats to seriously injure or kill the victim or minor child by the arrested person; (3) threats to commit suicide by the arrested person; or (4) serious physical injuries inflicted upon the victim or minor child by the arrested person.

At least half a dozen other states have similar laws. Alabama requires a domestic violence suspect to go before a magistrate prior to posting bail, within 12 hours of arrest. Indiana requires that a domestic violence suspect be held for at least 8 hours. Massachusetts requires that a domestic violence suspect be held for 6 hours following arrest before posting bail. Mississippi requires an arrestee to go before a judge before bail is posted, and allows the judge to establish a hold period of up to 24 hours from either the time of arrest or the subsequent setting of bail. Nevada requires that a domestic violence suspect cannot post bail until 12 hours after his arrest, and Tennessee requires suspects to be held for 12 hours if the Court finds that the suspect poses a threat to the victim, unless the court finds a shorter hold period is sufficient to protect the victim.

I urge you to take this important step to provide victims of domestic violence with a meaningful period of time to take steps to ensure safety for themselves and their families. Please support S.B. 324. Thank you.