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*State Victim Advocate*

Testimony of Natasha M. Pierre, Esq., State Victim Advocate  
Submitted to the Banking Committee  
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Good afternoon Senator Martin, Senator Winfield, Representative Lesser and distinguished members of the Banking 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 in **SUPPORT** of:

Raised Bill No. 472, An Act Concerning Fees for Security Freezes on Credit Reports, Notification of a Consumer's Decision to Place or Remove a Security Freeze on a Credit Report and the Duration of Certain Identity Theft Prevention Services Required After a Data Breach;

Raised Bill No. 474, An Act Protecting Elderly Adults from Financial Exploitation;

Raised Bill No. 5492, An Act Concerning Consumer Credit Reports, Credit Rating Agencies and Certain Employer Credit Inquiries.

The Office of the Victim Advocate (OVA) has worked with several victims of identity theft, who for years, have attempted to repair the damage done to their life as a result of identity theft. One such victim is now being forced to defend against a civil action brought by a creditor seeking a judgment against the victim, not the perpetrator of the identity theft. Another victim requested and received an order of restitution on behalf of the creditor in criminal court. Yet the creditor continues to harass the victim through collection efforts. The devastation to a victim of identity theft is long lasting and costly.

Corporate data breaches cause wide-spread panic among consumers who, at no fault of their own, are exposed to the devastation that identity theft causes. Those consumers should not have to bear the burden of additional costs for security freezes or security protection when a breach occurs. I strongly urge the Committee's favorable report on Raised Bill Nos. 472 and 5492.

Raised Bill No. 474 will further protect elderly adults from financial exploitation by providing a mechanism for broker-dealers and investment advisers to report suspected cases of financial exploitation involving senior and other vulnerable adults. As elderly adults are more vulnerable to financial exploitation, including by family members, it is imperative that those responsible for the financial affairs of a vulnerable adult have the ability to report suspected abuses. I urge the Committee's favorable report of Raised Bill No. 474.

Thank you for consideration of my testimony.