

# CONNECTICUT ALLIANCE TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE



Support. Advocate. Prevent.

**Testimony of Amanda Moreau, master's Candidate, Graduate Intern at The Alliance to End Sexual Violence, and Volunteer at SACS, New Britain**

**In Support of S.B. No. 17 – An Act Promoting Fairness In Access To Information, Support, And Justice For Sexual Assault Victims**

**Public Safety and Security Committee  
February 27, 2018**

Good afternoon, Senator Larson, Senator Guglielmo, Representative Verrengia and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee.

I am Amanda Moreau and I am a master's student studying public health at SCSU, a graduate intern at The Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence, and a volunteer at the YWCA Sexual assault crisis center (SACS) in New Britain. SACS is one of the nine-member centers that directly works with sexual assault survivors. To Volunteer at SACS, you are required to take a 40 -hour training course and make a commitment of two 12-14 hour shifts on the sexual assault crisis hotline which includes hospital accompaniment each month.

Since volunteering over a year ago I have been on multiple hospital accompaniments and have been to four different hospitals across our state. I am in favor of In Support of S.B. 17 *AN ACT PROMOTING FAIRNESS IN ACCESS TO INFORMATION, SUPPORT AND JUSTICE FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS* because of the value someone like me, an advocate, brings to the survivor. As a master's candidate in Public Health I understand how important it is to aid survivors to services and support in order to decrease possible chronic diseases that are linked to

sexual assault and how vital it is for an advocate to be present during the evidence collection kit. Not only is an advocate there to hold the survivors hand but, an advocate also there to make sure that things go well, bridge the gap between survivor and services, and make sure that the survivor is heard, and their needs are met. This bill is essential to make sure that someone like me is present for a time consuming, emotionally draining, procedure that is necessary to collect evidence from an assault.

On behalf of The Alliance, SACS, and the survivors we serve, I want to thank you for your consideration, support, and opportunity to speak with you today in support of this bill.

Thank you,

Amanda Moreau

Graduate Intern

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