

CONNECTICUT ALLIANCE TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE



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Testimony of Lucy Nolan, Director of Policy and Public Relations
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
Monday, April 1, 2019

SB 693 AN ACT CONCERNING ADDITIONAL HOUSING PROTECTIONS FOR A VICTIM OF FAMILY VIOLENCE OR SEXUAL ASSAULT.

HB 7396 AN ACT CONCERNING SPOUSAL RAPE

HB 7399 AN ACT CONCERNING LEGAL PROTECTIONS FOR THE VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND THE PROTECTION OF MINORS FROM CYBER EXPLOITATION

Senator Winfield, Representative Stafstrom, and members of the Judiciary Committee my name is Lucy Nolan and I am the Director of Policy and Public Relations with the Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence (The Alliance). The Alliance is the state's leading voice to end sexual violence and coalition of nine statewide community-based sexual assault crisis services centers. Our mission is to create communities free of sexual violence and to provide culturally affirming, trauma-informed advocacy, prevention, and intervention services centered on the voices of survivors. I am here to speak on SB 693, An Act Concerning Additional Housing Protections for a Victim of Family Violence or Sexual Assault, HB 7396, An Act Concerning Spousal Rape, and HB 7399, An Act Concerning Legal Protections for the Victims of Human Trafficking and the Protections of Minors from Cyber Exploitation.

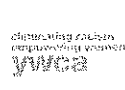
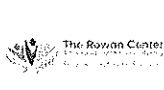
S.B. 693 - Support

This legislation would allow tenants who have a protective or restraining order to request that their landlord change their locks changes within two business days making such a request, at their own cost. The passage of this legislation creates a policy for ensuring survivors of violence who are dependent on landlords have the right to make their homes safe. This is especially important for survivors of sexual and domestic violence who are most likely to be harmed by people they know and who may have access to their home addresses. This legislation also allows victims to change their own locks within two business days if their request is not met and ensure that victims are not over-charged for the cost of the change of the locks. Victims of sexual and domestic violence are particularly vulnerable to experiencing additional acts of violence, and those who are dependent on landlords to help keep them safe need this important legislation to ensure their rights and safety are intact.

HB 7396 – Support with requested substitute language

Connecticut's separate and distinct statute for "sexual assault in spousal or cohabiting relationships" limits sexual assault to "sexual intercourse by use of force/threat of use of force." Additionally, married persons are excluded from the definition of "sexual contact" which means those who have been sexually assaulted by their partner through fear or manipulation have no recourse with the courts. We support this legislation and support the necessary substitute language our partner the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) suggests to the Committee.

Requested substitute language:



In addition to repealing 53a-70b, the definitions of “sexual intercourse” and “sexual contact” must be updated to remove the carve-out of married persons. We suggest the following changes:

- **Lines 528 – 529:** bracket “Its meaning is limited to persons not married to each other.”
- **Line 535:** bracket “not married to the actor”
- **Line 537 – 538:** bracket “not married to the actor”
- **Line 680:** bracket “53a-70b,”

HB 7399 – Support with requested changes

As a longstanding and active member of the Trafficking in Persons Council (TIPs Council) The Alliance supports HB 7399 AN ACT CONCERNING LEGAL PROTECTIONS FOR THE VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND THE PROTECTION OF MINORS FROM CYBER EXPLOITATION which will make changes to the statutes impacting victims of human trafficking, including adding new and additional members to the Council, and expanding the definition of commercial sex abuse to include online exploitation. The Alliance would like to see immunity for crimes for victims of human trafficking which is not in this bill.

The current statute, CGS 52-146k, speaks to privileged communications for sexual assault and domestic violence counselors. Their roles are significantly different than child anti-trafficking counselors who work in a child anti-trafficking agency and may likely cause conflicts between how the privilege works in with established sexual assault and domestic violence counselors. We ask that the language outlining the roles of child anti-trafficking counselors and child anti-trafficking agencies remain separate from CGS 52-146k so that no sexual assault or domestic violence counselors work is compromised.

We request that the Committee remove language added to **CGS 52-146k in Section 2 of the bill (beginning on line 52) and place the language in a separate “new” statute and make the other necessary conforming changes throughout the bill.**

Thank you for allowing me to address you on these important bills that bring parity and safety to those harmed by sexual violence.

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