

**Center for Youth Leadership  
Brien McMahon High School**  
**Mayor's Youth Leadership Council  
Stamford High School**

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*Why wait for someone else to make a difference?*

**Judiciary Committee:  
Testimony in Support of SB 1100: An Act Concerning Upskirting**

We are submitting this to Senator Winfield, Representative Stafstrom, and members of the Judiciary Committee. On behalf of the 180 members of the Center for Youth Leadership at Brien McMahon High School and the Mayor's Youth Leadership Council at Stamford High School, we are writing in support of SB 1100, An Act Concerning Upskirting.

Sexual harassment and sexual assault are two of the social issues addressed by our members. In fact, we will devote the month of April to raising awareness of both issues, with activities on and off our campuses. As written, SB 1100 closes a gap in Connecticut's ability to address upskirting. Please see line 29, "...whether such other person is or is not in a public place."

We have a few comments about "public place." According to Connecticut General Statutes 53a-186, "public place" means "...any place where the conduct may reasonably be expected to be viewed by others." We assume this includes public schools. If yes, we suggest line 29 of the bill read, "...whether such other person is or is not in a public place, including public schools in the state." There's another issue. Does public space include a bathroom in a school, a locker room, and the athletic trainer's room? We believe these locations ought to be included in SB 1100.

Upskirting is a terrible invasion of privacy and an awful crime. As you may know, a teacher at a school in Fairfield County was arrested a few years ago for taking images up students' skirts during class. Earlier this year, a Greenwich man was arrested on a warrant by Stamford police who accused him of taking "upskirt" videos of unsuspecting women through the photo booth business he owns (1). A couple of years ago, a former elementary school principal was arrested and charged with the upskirting of young girls in a Walmart in Hartford (2). And last week, three male students at Nathan Hale-Ray High School in East Haddam were charged with taking voyeuristic photos up the skirts of female classmates (3). One incident is one incident too many. We ask the Committee to join us in supporting SB 1100. Thank you.

Sincerely: Aidan Bowman, Sharon Fernandez, Andrew Thompson, Nina Passaro, and Casey Van

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*Brien McMahon High School  
300 Highland Avenue, Norwalk, Connecticut 06854, 203-852-9488*

*Stamford High School  
55 Strawberry Hill Avenue, Stamford, Connecticut 06901, 203-977-4643*

**Notes:**

1. Alfred Branch, "Greenwich Man Accused Of Taking 'Upskirt' Videos Of Women," *Greenwich Patch*, January 8, 2019.
2. Patrick Johnson, "Former Conn. Elementary School Principal Charged with 'Upskirting' Young Girls at Hartford Walmart," *MassLive*, March 6, 2017.
3. *The New London Day*, "High School Boys Charged with Taking Upskirting Photos," March 31, 2019.