



From: Dede Bartlett <dedebartlett1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 3:04 PM
To: JudTestimony
Cc: D'Louhy, Jacqueline <Jacqueline.DLouhy@newcanaanct.gov>; Bob Doran; Ritabailey; Suzanne Adam; Meredith Gold; Krishna Patel; Karen Jarmoc; Alina Reynolds; Carol Merritt; Carol Moody; Moynihan, Kevin; Krolikowski, Leon; john.kovach@hearstmedia.com; Sharon Prince
Subject: I support SB-442

Dear Senators,

My name is Dede Thompson Bartlett, and I am the Founder and Co-Chair of the New Canaan Abuse Prevention Partnership.

I am writing today to urge you to vigorously support Senator Alex Kasser's proposed bill - SB - 442 - which would require judges to make family abuse dangers the priority in custody cases when determining the best interests of children in family court.

My fellow New Canaanite, Jennifer Dulos, was the most famous, but sadly not the only woman in our state who was murdered last year by a violent partner. These women left behind grieving children in desperate conditions.

Every year, my organization, the New Canaan Abuse Prevention Partnership, hears about women in tragic situations whose lives and the lives of their children are at peril in our courts. In the last 15 years, the internet and social media have exacerbated the psychological abuse and terror a violent partner can inflict.

Records from family court show the many times Jennifer testified she was afraid for herself and her children. However the judge denied her requests for emergency custody for her five children citing lack of

evidence because the current law's outdated definition of domestic violence does not include texts, email, threats, psychological abuse and social media.

Senators, on this year which marks the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage, I urge you to co-sponsor and enact a law in Connecticut which underscores that women's rights are human right and that women and children need and deserve better protection than the current law affords.

Sincerely yours,

Dede Bartlett
Founder and Co-Chair,
New Canaan Abuse Prevention Partnership