

## Testimony in Support of H 6049: An Act Relating to Criminal Offenses – Sexual Assault

To Chairman Craven, First Vice Chair McEntee, Second Vice Chair Knight and the honorable members of the House Judiciary Committee:

Hello, my name is Jacqueline Goldman. I am a Providence citizen, constituent of Rep. Lombardi, and a community organizer writing to support H 6049.

Every year, we hear reports of police officer having sex with people who they detain. These officers tell the people that they arrest that they will have their charges dropped if they provide sexual favors. First of all, consent under duress is not active consent. Second of all, after committing sexual acts out of fear, victims also face retaliatory charges. The fact is, there is no situation in which a police officer has sex or performs sexual activities with a detainee that consensual.

In 34 states it is still legal for a police officer to have sex with someone they detain. Police officers union will claim that they police themselves and regulate their own actions, but that has not been seen to be true. Therefore, we must pass legislation in order to protect people, often low-income women facing a litany of different harms, from this kind of abuse. We cannot allow police officers to effectively rape detainees.

I am sure that this committee will only vote to have this bill for further study, but there is nothing to study. We need to pass H 6049 out of committee.