

2025 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

CONNECTICUT ALLIANCE
TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE 
Support. Advocate. Prevent.



2025 POLICY PRIORITIES

The Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence (The Alliance) works to prevent and eliminate sexual violence in our state through education, legislation, advocacy, trauma-informed care, and a state-wide network of support for victims and survivors. Each year, The Alliance provides legal, post-conviction, advocacy, counseling and crisis intervention services to more than 8,000 child, adolescent and adult survivors of sexual violence. We believe that sexual violence is a preventable public health epidemic, we believe that we can make things better, and we know that we are stronger when we work together.

SECURE STATE FUNDING TO OFFSET DEVASTATING CUTS TO VICTIM SERVICES

The Alliance seeks to secure \$2.7 million dollars in the state budget to ensure that our workforce stays intact after expected federal cuts to Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds. Unlike many other states, Connecticut's budget does not include funds dedicated to providing services to services for victims of crime. As a result of the expected cut in federal funding, our coalition's workforces will be decimated and leave victims and survivors with less access to vital interventions, services, and support while navigating complex systems. The CDC estimates the lifetime economic burden of rape during adulthood to be \$122,461 per victim. With more than 32% of adults in Connecticut estimated to be rape survivors, the cost to the state (due to health conditions, criminal justice response, and victim and perpetrator lost work of productivity) could be more than \$141 trillion. Decreased access to critical sexual assault services will strain the state's economy as it struggles to meet victims' needs without the comprehensive, VOCA-supported services and resource network currently in place.

PROTECT VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE FROM DISCRIMINATION

The Alliance seeks to add protections in employment, housing, public accommodations and credit transactions for victims of sexual violence, trafficking, and stalking. Currently victims of domestic violence are the only victims of crime to have these protections ([Public Act No. 22-82](#)). Extending these protections will support survivors seeking justice, healing, and wellbeing. The Alliance also supports amending the existing requirements for all state employees to view a one-hour virtual training developed by the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) and the requirement through CHRO to have all employers with three or more employees post written information and the resources available to include sexual violence. The legislation was proposed in 2024 ([Raised H.B. 5414](#)) but did not make it out of committee. *The Alliance supports the Trafficking in Persons Council's recommendation to add victims of trafficking to the state's protected classes.*

ALLOW DNA TESTING IN SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC KITS WITHOUT REQUIRING A POLICE REPORT

The Alliance supports establishing a third pathway for victims to choose to have DNA tested in sexual assault evidence collection kit without requiring a police report. This change will provide victims of sexual violence with the option to include their name on a sexual assault evidence collection kit, which will indicate the kit is "identified" and therefore tested for DNA evidence, without having to make a report to police. The testing of DNA evidence will both empower victims to make informed decisions and be a valuable tool for the criminal justice system. *The Alliance supports the Division of Criminal Justice's proposal to make changes to CGS Sec. 19a-112a to include this option.*



OUR PROGRAMS

The Alliance's attorneys at our **Victim Rights Center of Connecticut (VRCCT)** serve the needs of victims of sexual assault crimes. They combine an understanding of the effects of trauma on victims with knowledge of the many ways the legal system can help to reduce the disruptions that violence can bring. VRCCT acts as independent legal counsel sworn to protect the legal rights and best interests of victims through a broad-based approach grounded in litigation, creative problem-solving, and extensive knowledge of the judicial system. We help victims report to the police and accompany them, and we can also help with housing, employment, education, and benefits that are often disrupted following a crime.

Our specialized victim advocates in our **Post-Conviction Victim Services (PCVS)** program work collaboratively with the Office of Adult Probation Sex Offender Supervision Unit, the Parole Special Management Unit, and the Center for the Treatment of Problem Sexual Behaviors in a nationally recognized model aimed at reducing recidivism and increasing support to victims of crime. While each partner has a distinct role, our collective goals are promoting victim safety, advancing community safety, and preventing future victimizations. Alliance victim advocates work with the victim to provide notification, address safety issues, and promote collaboration in addressing the victim's feedback and concerns throughout the parole and probation process.

OUR MEMBERSHIP

For more than 40 years, The Alliance and our member centers have provided free and confidential services to child, adolescent, and adult victims of sexual violence throughout Connecticut. Survivors can access services 24/365 via hotline or at their local center. Each center offers counseling; support groups; accompaniments in hospital, police, and court settings; case management and support while navigating complex systems post-disclosure; and a myriad of other trauma-informed services that support healing, connection, and justice.



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