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**State of Connecticut**  
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Education Committee  
Energy & Technology Committee  
Judiciary Committee  
Labor & Public Employees Committee

March 29, 2021

Dear Senator Abrams and Representative Steinberg, Ranking Members Hwang and Somers, and honorable members of the Public Health Committee,

I am writing today in support of Section 1 of SB 1083: An Act Concerning Various Revisions to the Public Health Statutes, also known as Halyn's Law.

This provision seeks to require that the Chief Medical Examiner earns at least one contact hour of training or education in sudden unexpected death in epilepsy (SUDEP) as part of the continued medical education they are required to obtain. The community of Wethersfield suffered a tremendous loss when Halyn Murtha, who was just shy of her 10<sup>th</sup> birthday and living with epilepsy, passed away due to SUDEP. This bill seeks to allow for greater understanding of the risk factors and causes linked with SUDEP and uniform reporting of SUDEP cases. In collecting this information, we may find data that will allow us to lessen the number of cases and save lives.

In working closely with the Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut on this issue, I believe that this is an important first step we in the legislature can take to help end a leading cause of death among people living with epilepsy.

I appreciate the support of the Public Health Committee leadership and the cooperation of Dr. Gill and the Office Chief Medical Examiner as we work to strengthen this provision and ensure that Connecticut is a leader in understanding SUDEP

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Respectfully,

Matthew Lesser