1 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA 2 3 4 5 Senate Bill 833 6 7 8 House Judiciary Subcommittee 9 on Crime and Corrections 10 Main Capitol Building Room 8-E-A, East Wing 11 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 12 13 Wednesday, April 1, 1998 - 1:05 p.m. 14 15 --000--16 17 **BEFORE:** 18 Honorable Jerry Birmelin, Majority Chairperson 19 Honorable Brett Feese Honorable Al Masland 20 Honorable Robert Reber Honorable Harold James, Minority Chairperson 21 Honorable Babette Josephs Honorable Thomas Caltagirone 22 23 24 25 **KEY REPORTERS** 1300 Garrison Drive, York, PA 17404 (717) 764-7801 Fax (717) 764-6367 -094

ALSO PRESENT: Brian Preski, Esquire Majority Chief Counsel Judy Sedesse Majority Administrative Assistant David Bloomer Majority Research Analyst 

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CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: Good afternoon.
 Welcome to the Pennsylvania House of
 Representatives Judiciary Committee Hearing
 today. This is the Subcommittee on Crime and
 Corrections.

I'm the Chairman of this Subcommittee,
Representative Jerry Birmelin hailing from Wayne
and Pike Counties. And Î will ask the Members of
the Committee that are with us today to introduce
themselves. And as Members come later throughout
this hearing, I will introduce them as best as
I'm able to.

13 And seated immediately to my right is 14 Representative Babette Josephs from Philadelphia 15And to my immediate left is the County. Chairman -- the Democratic Chairman of this 16 17 Committee, Representative Tom Caltagirone. Would 18 the rest of the Members please introduce 19 themselves?

20 REPRESENTATIVE MASLAND: I'm
21 Representative Al Masland from Cumberland and
22 York Counties.

REPRESENTATIVE FEESE:

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24 Representative Brett Feese from Lycoming County.
 25 MR. PRESKI: Brian Preski, Chief Counsel

to the Committee.

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2 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: Well, we welcome 3 you on this bright and sunny day today. For our 4 viewers, this is actually a day in which it's 5 raining profusely outside, so you're not really 6 missing anything by not being outside and by 7 being here today. 8 And hopefully the two hours that we'll 9 be spending here discussing the Bill that is 10 before us with the amendments that have been 11introduced to it by Representative Josephs will 12 be constructive, if nothing else for you. 1.3This hearing is dealing with Senate Bill 14 833 and two of the amendments that have been 15 introduced to it, amendments by Representative 16 Babette Josephs who I've previously introduced is 17 seated to my right. 18 And it deals with the subject of sexual 19 assault on prisoners who are under the care and 20 custody of prison officials while not actually in 21

21 prison. They could be in a hospital for 22 treatment or some other institution where they 23 are under the security of the prison officials 24 but not actually in the prison.

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Apparently from the sponsor of the

1 legislation, Senator Greenleaf, we understand 2 that there is a bit of a loophole in the law that allows for some indiscretionary activity on the 3 4 part of prison officials in areas in 5 which -- these are not occurring in the actual 6 prisons which they've been assigned as employees. 7 And Representative Josephs has two 8 amendments. And before we talk about the Bill 9 itself and before I call our first witness, I'm 10 going to ask Representative Josephs if she would give us a brief summary of those two amendments. 11 Representative Josephs. 12 13 **REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPHS:** Thank you, 14 Mr. Chairman, I quess the reasons why I 15 introduced the amendment -- or both amendments 16 have more to do with what I think was the problem 17 with this Bill than my commitment to actually 18 seeing these become part of the law. 19 My problem with Senate Bill 833 is that 20 I think it doesn't help us in getting and 21 obtaining convictions where you have a kind of 22 situation in which there is a sexual assault and 23 the subject of that assault is much, much more 24 powerless than the alleged perpetrator which, of 25 course, is the case of inmates whether they

are -- wherever they are in custody, whether they are in custody in the correctional institution or in some other setting.

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I believe that our definition of forcible compulsion which is already in our statute does what it's meant to do and that amending it not only doesn't make it any stronger, but I can see situations in which it will make it weaker or make it more difficult to obtain convictions.

11 My objection to it was getting more 12 detailed, talking about a person who has 13 supervisory or disciplinary authority over the 14 complainant instead of looking at that term 15 "forcible compulsion," which is variable and 16 which I think covers situations in which a person 17 has supervisory or disciplinary authority over 18 the complainant.

And in order to make my point, in my amendments mentions some names of people, names of professions that -- in which people might be practicing and come into contact with inmates and be accused of or convicted of or involved in a sexual assault.

I think probably more -- rather than go

1 on, I should let the -- turn the chair back over 2 to the Chair, go on with the hearing. And I think more discussion will come up as I get a 3 4 chance to ask questions and people get a chance to present their testimony before us. 5 6 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: Representative 7 Josephs, your two amendments as I read them deal with sexual assault by psychotherapy specialists 8 and healers -- I want to use your terminology so 9 10 I don't make a mistake -- practitioners of the 11 healing arts. Maybe as we go through we might want to 12add a little definition to that as we discuss 13 14

this before the Committee. Our first testifiers are the Honorable Martin Horn, Commissioner of the Department of Corrections of Pennsylvania.

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He'll be joined by Calvin Lightfoot, who
is the Warden of the Allegheny County Prison.
Gentlemen, if you would please come forward. My
understanding is that, Commissioner Horn, you
have written testimony that you want to present
to us.

And if any Members have that before them and that -- Mr. Lightfoot, you will be available to answer some questions. And if you feel you

1 need to make some comments, we'll certainly be 2 very willing to listen to what you have to say. 3 And before you gentlemen begin, I would 4 like to introduce Representative Reber who has 5 joined us from Montgomery County. He's a Member of the Committee as well. And Mr. Horn, whenever 6 7 you're prepared to begin, you may do so. 8 MR. HORN: Thank you very much, 9 Mr. Chairman. And I do appreciate your offering 10 the opportunity to my good friend and colleague, 11 Calvin Lightfoot, to join me here at the table 12 today and speak to the issue from the perspective 13 of county prisons. Representative Birmelin, Members of the 14 15 Subcommittee on Crime and Corrections, I 16 appreciate this opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 833. 17 The amendments proposed in Senate Bill 18 19 833 provide the technical corrections needed to restore the statutes on offenses of sexual 20 21 assault and indecent assault with respect to 22 persons in custody to their pre-1995 state. Prior to 1995, the statute regarding 23 24 consensual sexual intercourse charged an individual with a second-degree misdemeanor if 25

1 found guilty. In 1995, this section was repealed 2 and replaced with a provision that addressed 3 sexual intercourse without consent and failed to 4 address situations in which there is consent by the victim. 5 6 The proposed amendment to this statute 7 as provided in Senate Bill 833 includes language 8 which is intended to incorporate the pre-1995 9 language regarding consensual situations. 1.0In 1995, section 3126 regarding indecent 11 assault was also amended and the language, quote, 12 in custody of law, close quote, was removed from 13 the statute. 14 Senate Bill 833 proposes to restore this 15 missing language and find a person guilty of 16 indecent assault if the victim is in custody of 17 law or detained in a hospital or other 18 institution where the perpetrator has supervisory or disciplinary authority over the victim. 19 20 The Department of Corrections forbids any form of sexual contact between staff and 21 22 inmates. Our code of ethics specifically 23 directs that there is to be no fraternization or 24 private relationships between staff and inmates. 25 The Department's training program on

Professionalism and Ethics for Correctional Staff which was adopted in 1997 explicitly states that sexual relationships between staff and inmates are never consensual.

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5 The training also directs employees that 6 inappropriate relationships between staff and 7 inmates will not be tolerated. Since 1995, the 8 Department has dismissed or accepted resignations 9 in lieu of a dismissal from 15 employees for 10 sexually related fraternization.

In prison, the relationship between keeper and kept is inherently coercive. Consent cannot be a defense to sexual acts between a prison employee and an inmate. The unequal nature of the custodial relationship between inmates and corrections staff presumes some type of pressure on the prisoner exists.

18 It is therefore unnecessary to inquire 19 into the victim's consent. Moreover, the 20 opportunity for inmates to assert control over 21 staff through manipulative consensual sexual 22 activity must be explicitly closed off.

Thirty-two states and the federal
government have statutes prohibiting the sexual
abuse of prisoners. Twelve of these statutes

1 specifically assert that consent is not a 2 defense. For example, New York's statute passed 3 in 1996 and signed into law defines an inmate in a correctional facility as legally incapable of 4 5 consenting to a sexual act with a correctional 6 employee. 7 I believe that this is the proper view Sexual misconduct is most often a 8 of the matter. 9 felony offense. Twenty-one states and the 10District of Columbia define sexual misconduct as 11 a felony while five states define sexual 12 misconduct as a misdemeanor.

In three states and the federal prison system, specifics of each case determine whether the sexual misconduct was prosecuted as either a felony or misdemeanor.

Under Senate Bill 833, voluntary sexual activity in the form of sexual intercourse or deviate sexual intercourse would be prosecuted as a felony, while indecent contact would be prosecuted as a misdemeanor.

This seems to be a reasonable distinction. Therefore, I request your support of Senate Bill 833. Thank you for your time in allowing me to testify regarding this matter.

1 I'd be happy to answer any questions. 2 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: Mr. Lightfoot, do 3 you have any comment you'd like to add --4 MR. LIGHTFOOT: No, not at this time. But I would -- I'm standing by for any questions 5 6 that you would like to ask me. 7 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: As I mentioned 8 earlier, the Warden of the Allegheny County 9 Prison -- is that located in the City of 10 Pittsburgh? 11 Yes, it is. MR. LIGHTFOOT: 12 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: How far is it 13 from Pittsburgh SCI? 14 MR. LIGHTFOOT: I guess, mile and a 15 half, close. CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: I will turn to 16 17 the Members of the Committee now, and we'll give them the opportunity to ask questions if they 18 19 would like to make comments. And I'll begin with 20 the Democratic Chairman of this Committee, 21 Representative Caltagirone. 22 REPRESENTATIVE CALTAGIRONE: Thank you, 23 Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Horn, we have a chart -- and I don't know if you have a copy of 24 this. If Counsel would share one of these copies 25

with the Commissioner. On the back of this packet it starts out with Purdens, chapter 31 defining sexual offenses.

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There is a chart that I was looking at as I came in. I want to find out as far as Pennsylvania's concerned, I was just noting on this chart at the top of this table 4 it says that evidently these are policies that are utilized in the various states with their Department of Corrections.

11 And they said the Policies Covered in 12 Specific Training Presentation -- I would imagine 13 that would be for employees -- Pennsylvania is 14 not checked. And then it says Policies Covered 15 in Standard Inmate Orientation; and again, 16 Pennsylvania's not checked.

The third column, Policies Covered in
the Inmate Handbook, Pennsylvania is not checked.
And then the fourth column, Pennsylvania is
checked for Policies are Available in the
Inmates' Library.

I was just curious, is there any reason why -- and maybe it is and this hasn't been updated -- as to why, let's say, at least employees that are trained as corrections

1 personnel or if any type of staff would not be 2 covered under specific training, No. 1; and No. 3 2, I would imagine that might also hold true for 4 the counties as to the policy or inmate 5 orientation, and then, of course, the handbook. 6 I would think that any one of those 7 three that are not covered and/or all of them 8 might go a little bit further in educating both 9 staff and inmates as to the policies and how 10 those policies are to be enforced. 11 MR. HORN: Yes. I quite agree. Well, 12 actually, the preceding page relates to staff 13 training. And I think the back page, table 4, relates to how inmates are informed. And I 14 15 think -- I really can't speak to this. 16 This document came out in November of 1996, probably based on data that was collected 17 in 1995 given the way these things typically have 18 been put together. And I really don't know who 19 20 responded to the questionnaire. But typically, inmates do receive our 21 inmates handbook. It does indicate what the 22 rules are. We are in the process of revising it. 23 Absolutely this statement should appear there. 24 With respect to staff, if you turn to the 25

16 1 preceding page, it clearly indicates that the 2 first column is marked all staff receive 3 training. 4 REPRESENTATIVE CALTAGIRONE: You're 5 right. You're right. 6 MR. LIGHTFOOT: While I can't speak for 7 the other counties, I can tell you that in 8 Allegheny County we -- in our orientation and in our inmate handout, we do explicitly speak to the 9 10 prohibitions of sexual activities in the jail as 11well as no-tolerance policies that are given to 12 in-service training as well as the preservice 13 training to all the employees. 14 REPRESENTATIVE CALTAGIRONE: Thank you. 15 Thank you, Commissioner. Thank you, Warden. 16 Thank you. 17 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: Representative Masland. 18 REPRESENTATIVE MASLAND: I just had one 19 brief question to start off with, and then I'll 20 It was my 21 pass the microphone along. 22 understanding, Commissioners, that during discussions when this Bill first came up in 23 committee that one of the reasons that it was 24 needed was to basically assist the Department in 25

situations where there were sexual relations in terms of getting that corrections officer or employee to resign.

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It was my impression that one of the reasons this was needed was that it could be used as leverage if there was something specifically in there to convince them that it would be better off for them to resign as opposed to being prosecuted.

But it sounds like from your testimony that you've had a number of individuals who have been dismissed or resigned in lieu of a dismissal without this -- without this in effect.

I guess what I'm getting at is, is that one of the reasons you need this because you know it's going on and you want to get people to resign? And if that's the case, is it really necessary to add something to the law that some of us think is covered anyhow?

20 MR. HORN: Mr. Masland, I would never 21 suggest to the General Assembly that we pass a 22 law just to enable this Department to have 23 leverage over employees to get them to resign. 24 If they've done wrong, we ought to go after them 25 with everything we can.

1 I think that the reason why this statute 2 is necessary is because, with all due respect, I 3 don't agree that it is covered by current law. 4 Presently -- and I've had the occasion where 5 members of this body have said to me, What's the 6 problem if the inmate gives consent? 7 I think we must recognize as a 8 Commonwealth that much as there are other 9 individuals in our community who we say by law are incapable of giving consent, we should say 10 11 the same thing with respect to inmates. 12 I think that the movement in the country 13 as clearly demonstrated by the data that we 14 provided to you is in the direction of that. And 15 I would hate to think that Pennsylvania is 16 marching in the opposite direction having removed this provision when other states are including 17 18 it. 19 And, finally, while we have obtained 20terminations of employees or obtained resignations in 15 cases, that is far fewer than 21 22 the number of cases where the behavior may have 23 occurred where we have not been successful. 24 As you know because of the way the 25 process works, an arbitrator is entirely capable

1 as things now stand to find that an 2 employee -- and I want to make it clear that this 3 behavior is not limited to corrections 4 Employees of all job classifications officers. 5 and both genders have engaged in this behavior -- that an arbitrator will find that 6 7 despite the fact that it has occurred that the 8 employee, nonetheless, should be allowed to 9 continue in their employment. 10 That is reprehensible. If, however, the 11 employee were charged with and convicted of a 12 crime which could occur despite the fact that the 13 inmate gave consent, which is all this is about, 14 despite the fact that the inmate said yes, we would be saying to staff, That is not a defense. 1516 It is always wrong in every circumstance. We would then be better able to 17 obtain the dismissal irrespective of the 18 19 employee's willingness to resign before an 20 arbitrator based upon the conviction for the 21 crime. 22 Finally, I think that people are more often willing to jeopardize their job than they 23 are willing to jeopardize the possibility of a 2.4 25 jail sentence and a criminal record.

1 I think the important point to make here 2 is that this is about a situation where an inmate 3 entices an officer or gives the officer or other 4 employee the appearance of granting consent, and 5 I think the law of the state should be that that 6 inmate is incapable of granting consent. 7 REPRESENTATIVE MASLAND: In these 15 cases since 1995, have any of them been 8 9 prosecuted for any offenses? 10 MR. HORN: Yes. REPRESENTATIVE MASLAND: Do you know 1112 what percentage? 13 MR. HORN: Um, three individuals were 14 But I believe they were prosecuted prosecuted. based on the law prior to 1995 because these were 15 dismissals and terminations since 1995. 16 In those three cases, the behavior occurred before the law 17 18 was changed in 1995. REPRESENTATIVE MASLAND: Thank you. 19 MR. LIGHTFOOT: And I can tell you that 20 in the county when I bring cases like this before 21 the prosecutor, he's not willing to go forward 22 , with the prosecutorial end of it because of this 23 2.4 law. But I will tell you that this is an abuse 25 of power.

1 When you have inmates under the 2 authority of the warden and all of the people 3 that work for the warden or that person that runs 4 the institution, there's a statutory 5 responsibility as well as a moral responsibility. 6 If we're going to maintain 7. professionalism, if we're going to keep order 8 within that facility, you have to have those 9 stringent rules; and it should be backed up by 10 the law. The abuse of power should not be 11 tolerated in any of our agencies. 12 It doesn't have to be the correctional 13 institutions. It can be hospitals; it can be 14 churches; it can be schools. But when we have 15 that kind of authority over these people, the ultimate in how we treat them is the quality of 16the professionalism and the law that backs us up. 17 18 REPRESENTATIVE MASLAND: Let me just say before passing to Representative Feese, I want to 19 20 make it clear that we're not condoning abuse of power, and nobody has done that. 21 And we did not pass a law in 1995 which 22 23 specifically permitted this kind of behavior lest 24 anybody out there think that is the case. It is very far from the case. I'll pass to 25

1 Representative Feese. 2 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: Representative 3 Feese. 4 **REPRESENTATIVE FEESE:** Thank you, 5 Mr. Chairman. And to add to what 6 Representative Masland said, nor did we repeal a 7 law in 1995 which changed the law. 8 You gentlemen probably are aware that in 9 1980, some 15 years before the Legislature took 10 that statute off the books, the Pennsylvania 11 Superior Court and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court 12 declared that statute unconstitutional. So we 13 were merely removing a statute from the books 14 which was already declared unconstitutional. Nonetheless, Senate Bill 833 15 MR. HORN: 16 would explicitly make that behavior illegal. 17 REPRESENTATIVE FEESE: Senate Bill 833. But contrary to your testimony, we only repealed 18 the statute which was already unconstitutional --19 20 MR. MARTIN: I accept that correction. 21 REPRESENTATIVE FEESE: -- not in effect 22 for 15 years prior to the time of the --23 MR. HORN: I accept that correction. REPRESENTATIVE FEESE: -- Legislature 24 took that action. I'm trying to understand out 25

1 of 15 employees that were dismissed or 2 resignations that were accepted, you indicated 3 that some were prosecuted? 4 And I'm assuming then that was 5 prosecution for either an actual rape as we would 6 know it with forcible compulsion or an 7 involuntary deviate sexual intercourse. Is that 8 the crimes that they would have been prosecuted 9 for? 10MR. HORN: I believe it was indecent 11 sexual assault. 12 REPRESENTATIVE FEESE: Do you know how 13 many out of that 15 were actually prosecuted? 14 MR. HORN: I only know of three that 15 were prosecuted. As I say, these are 15 cases 16 since 1995 when I became Secretary of 17 Corrections. And some of these persons who resigned 18 or were terminated -- resigned or terminated 19 20 based on investigations that came to fruition in 21 1995 of behavior that occurred in 1993 and '94. REPRESENTATIVE FEESE: Do we have an 22 23 average number of cases that occurs in the Department during this time frame per year? 24 I mean, is it 10 a year? 15? Do you know? 25

1 I'm not sure what -- I'm not MR. HORN: 2 sure what the category is that we're talking 3 about. 4 REPRESENTATIVE FEESE: In your written testimony it said, 15 employees for sexual 5 6 related fraternizations. 7 MR. HORN: That have, in fact, been 8 There are other employees who we terminated. 9 brought on charges but for whom we did not 10 sustain a termination. The arbitrator may have 11 ruled against us sometimes on evidentiary grounds 12 and sometimes despite a finding of quilt may have 13 ordered us to reinstate the employee. 14 It's not uncommon for an arbitrator to 15 find that an employee with, say, ten or more 16 years of exemplary service is quilty of a 17 transgression and says, Well, you shouldn't throw 18 their whole career away because of this 19 transgression. 20 Our position is that this particular type of transgression goes to the very root of 21 the integrity of the corrections service and, 22 23 therefore, cannot be tolerated. REPRESENTATIVE FEESE: But what I'm 24 25 trying to understand is how widespread the

1 problem is. You're saying that since 1995, 15 2 were dismissed; or is that -- do you have any idea of the number of cases that are brought to 3 4 your attention each year for disciplinary action? 5 Do you have any idea at all? MR. HORN: The -- I don't want to hazard 6 7 a number. I could provide that information to 8 I want to be clear that it is not you. 9 widespread and rampant. People should not think 10 that this is going on with regularity in the 11 prisons. 12 I want the public to be assured that 1.3that is not the case. On the other hand, while 14 it occurs infrequently, it happens often enough 15 to be a matter of concern. If we've got 15 that 16 were dismissed over a three-year period, that's 17 five a year on average. And that's far too many. 18 REPRESENTATIVE FEESE: No, I agree. Ι 19 think any coercive situation is far too many, 20 just one is far too many. What I'm trying to 21 understand is in making policy decision, we look 22 at how severe the problem is, what the language 23 is, will the language catch people that we don't 24 want to catch that we would -- all of us would 25 believe should not be prosecuted?

1 And that's why I'm trying to get an 2 understanding of the scope of the problem. One 3 other question I have, Representative Caltagirone 4 was reviewing the staff training chart. And 5 under the amount of training provided preservice 6 hours and annual in-service hours for 7 Pennsylvania, it had an NA, not applicable. And I wasn't --8 9 Well, again --MR. HORN: 10 REPRESENTATIVE FEESE: -- sure what that 11 meant. Do we provide in-service hours regarding 12 this issue? 13 MR. HORN: Yes. We now since August of 14 1997 mandate all employees to take a three-hour course entitled Professionalism in Ethics. 15 And 16 that course explicitly deals with these 17 issues. REPRESENTATIVE FEESE: That's all the 18 questions I have. Thank you very much. 19 20 MR. LIGHTFOOT: We also have that on the 21 county level where we do the same. But with the 22 implementation of my no-tolerance policy, some of those acts have either gone underground or have 23 been curtailed. 24 25 But any one act like that is something

27 1 that you really have to deal with and in a very 2 iron-hand manner to get it -- to get it 3 eradicated out of your system. REPRESENTATIVE FEESE: Thank you. 4 5 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: 6 Commissioner Horn, I just want to ask you two 7 brief questions. No. 1, how many total employees 8 are there working for the Department of 9 Corrections? 10 Roughly 13,000, sir. MR. HORN: 11 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: And of those 13,000, how many are in a position where they may 12 13 be affected by this legislation; that is, they 14 would be in contact with prisoners to the effect 15 that they might be guilty of the crime that we are now trying to make illegal? 16 MR. HORN: 12,700, all but those who 17 work in the central offices of the Department 18 19 and perhaps even some of them. CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: Most of them? 20 21 MR. HORN: Yes. CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: About 98 percent 22 23 of them? 2.4 MR. HORN: Yes, sir. 25 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: Representative

1 Josephs, do you have any questions? 2 REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPHS: Yes, I do. 3 Thank you. I also want to make it clear that I 4 agree entirely with your policy and I agree 5 entirely with your statement that even someone with a long period of employment without 6 7 complaint who is found guilty of one of these 8 kinds of assaults ought to be terminated 9 immediately. I agree with that. 10 I think that you're absolutely right, 11 both of you, in saying that this kind of behavior 12 strikes to the heart of the system and really 13 corrupts it in a way that very few other kinds of 14 behaviors can. 15And that's what was my concern with this 16amendment because I think that it's going to be 17 harder, as I said before. For instance, you have 18 almost 13,000 people who are in some sort of 19 contact with inmates. 20 Who is to define and what are we going 21 to say is meant by supervisory -- which is in 22 this amendment -- or disciplinary? For instance, 23 as I was suggesting -- well, let me back up. Because I should have said, in Senate 24 25 Bill 833, we are adding a phrase which points to

people, which says that if a person has supervisory or disciplinary authority over the complainant, that a criminal act has been perpetrated.

5 Who is to say, for instance, if again 6 referring to my amendment, there is some sort of 7 psychologist or a therapist or a medical provider or a food service person or any of those 8 9 kinds of people who don't fit into, neatly into 10 the definition of having supervisory or disciplinary authority over the complainant, why 1112 should it be easier to prosecute a person under 13 this new statute which is being proposed than under the statute which we -- which really, I 14 15quess, depends on a very broad definition which is forcible compulsion? 16

MR. HORN: I'm not a lawyer, so it's difficult for me to answer the specifics of that last part of your question. I appreciate your support for the concept.

First of all, with respect to the use of the terms supervisory or disciplinary authority over the inmate, with respect to all of our employees in the H-1 AFSME (phonetic) bargaining unit, it is very clear that those employees as

1 part of their job duties, as part of their job 2 description, have care, custody, and control 3 responsibilities over the employees. 4 So that covers 8,000 corrections 5 officers and a couple of thousand additional noncorrection officer uniformed staff, food 6 7 service employees, maintenance employees, correctional industry employees, power plant 8 9 employees and so on. 10Additionally, all of our employees have 11 disciplinary authority. Even a secretary working 12 in a correctional institution can cite an inmate 1.3for a disciplinary violation. 14 So I would suggest to you that the 15 language encompasses all employees who are in a 16position to initiate disciplinary action against 17 an inmate in a correctional institution. With respect to the issue of whether 18 forcible compulsion is a better term of art to 19 20 use in this, I'm not an attorney. Other than to 21 say the point that I think we're trying to make 22 here is that when you use forcible compulsion, 23 there is this sense that there has to be some 24 overcoming of the will of the victim through force or the threat of the use of force that 25

1 there is some compulsion.

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It is very difficult to prove that there has been force or compulsion when the victim, if you will, the inmate in this case, was not only a willing participant, but more often an instigator.

7 When we allow inmates to engage in this 8 behavior and we say to staff that because you 9 didn't use force, because you did not overcome 10resistance in any way, it's okay, we allow staff 11 to be manipulated by inmates, inmates who want 12 favors, whether it is for a blind eye to be 13 turned to some in-prison misbehavior, whether 14 it's to an inappropriate assignment that can compromise security, whether it is bringing drugs 15 16 or alcohol into the prison.

And so I think to my mind the use of the term forcible compulsion is exactly not what we are trying to get at. We are not suggesting that force is used in its common sense meaning or that there is compulsion. And, indeed, in many of these cases, the relationship has been instigated by the inmate.

24 REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPHS: Thank you.
25 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: Counsel Preski
 has a question.

3 MR. PRESKI: Commissioner, I quess to 4 build upon Representative Josephs' question, one 5 of the things that was brought up in the discussion of the Committee was that forcible 6 7 compulsion can occur because you have a 8 corrections officer, someone who has the moniker 9 of an officer attached to their position, and an 10 inmate.

11 Of the situations that you have had, 12 either the 15 that have led to dismissals or the 13 others that you know have, are these all 14 correctional officers? You talk about them as 15 employees. You shake your head. I assume the 16 answer is no?

MR. HORN: No. In many cases, it has
been a counselor; it has been a food service
employee; it has been a teacher.

20 MR. PRESKI: So these aren't uniformed 21 people. They could be in civilian clothes where 22 there would not be the appearance of power or the 23 appearance of supervision or the appearance of 24 disciplinary just by the manner in which they 25 dress?

1 MR. HORN: That is correct. 2 MR. PRESKI: I quess my next question is 3 for you, Warden. You're here from the county. 4 Can you give us the county perspective of this? 5 You've talked about the zero-tolerance policy 6 that you've adopted, I assume, within the 7 Allegheny County Prison. 8 Can you tell us briefly about that and 9 what your experience is from the county level? 10MR. LIGHTFOOT: Well, much in the same 11 way that the state is experiencing from the 12 various classifications of abuse, I agree that I 13 don't think that "officer" has to be behind your 14 title for you to have had authority over the 15 persons. 16 And it can be consensual. In fact, 17 we're only talking consensual here because 18 anything other than that is a crime. I had to 19 bring in no-tolerance policies because of the 20 other classifications as well as the officers. 21 They were engaging in acts of sexual 2.2 misconduct on a consensual basis without any 23 impunity. They would -- they had no corrections or -- let me say they had no philosophies around 24 25 what it takes to be a professional in

corrections. And that had to be brought under control.

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But I do think that they knew that they were doing something wrong. And once that no-tolerance policy came about, of course, I couldn't catch people if they were not doing it merely on what someone said that they thought they did.

9 But those people who were engaging in 10 those acts were subjected to these no-tolerance 11 policies and they were dismissed. Their 12 employments were terminated.

MR. PRESKI: I guess the second part of my question is, as you talked to your brethren around the state and in the county facilities, is this a topic of conversation? I mean, is it a widespread problem? Is it something that you talk about?

MR. HORN: Not only -- yes, it is among all of the wardens in the state system and among the county prisons as well. I think all of us have seen it and experienced it.

And I think I've read newspaper accounts of it in counties throughout the state where employees have engaged in illicit sexual relationships with inmates.

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2 MR. LIGHTFOOT: And I would like to just 3 add that I was the Warden at the Baltimore City 4 Jail, Secretary for Maryland. I was with 5 SMARTY (phonetic) in New York. And I was the Head of Corrections of Montgomery County. 6 7 This is not just in Pennsylvania. Ιn 8 fact -- and if you've talked to your colleagues 9 at the conferences, American Jail Association 10 Conference and the Correctional -- the 11 ACA, the American Correctional Association of 12 Conferences, you find that this is something 13 that's practiced throughout the country. 14 And most of us have the same problem 15 that many of the employees win those cases once 16 they take it as far as arbitration. And we need something stronger in order to bring the system 17 18 into check. 19 MR. PRESKI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 20 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: Representative 21 Caltagirone has a follow-up question. 22 **REPRESENTATIVE CALTAGIRONE:** Commissioner -- and I pose the same question to 23 24 the Warden -- the numbers that you have in your testimony of 15, I was just curious, male, female 25

36 1 employees? 2 MR. HORN: Both. 3 REPRESENTATIVE CALTAGIRONE: Both. Male 4 and male relationships, female and female 5 relationships? MR. HORN: Both. 6 7 MR. LIGHTFOOT: Both. **REPRESENTATIVE CALTAGIRONE: Same?** 8 9 MR. HORN: Same. 10 REPRESENTATIVE CALTAGIRONE: Thank you. 11 MR. HORN: That too. 12 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: For the record, 13 male/female relationships? 14 MR. HORN: Yes, sir. 15 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: And sometimes the 16 females were the corrections people? 17 MR. HORN: Yes, sir. 18 MR. LIGHTFOOT: You mean employees? 19 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: Employees. 20 MR. HORN: Yes, sir. 21 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: Representative Feese has a follow-up question. 22 23 REPRESENTATIVE FEESE: Thank you, 24 Mr. Chairman. Gentlemen, in leafing through some of the material, I see some of the states have 25

1 very similar language already in statute as is in In talking to your colleagues 2 Senate Bill 833. 3 throughout the country, any anecdotal evidence or 4 statistical evidence that their statutes have had 5 an impact as far as behavior within the prison? 6 MR. HORN: Oh, absolutely, sir. 7. Absolutely. First of all, with respect to 8 enabling you to terminate the employee who 9 commits the transgression, everyone that I've 10spoken to in the State Directors Association 11 who has a statute like this says that it's 12 ironclad because what you do is you basically 13 forestall your disciplinary action.

You go for the criminal, and then you obtain your termination based upon a criminal conviction. And from a deterrent point of view as I indicated earlier -- I'd like to make two points:

One is that an individual might be tempted when faced with this sort of seduction or when the compulsion, in fact, comes from the inmate, the compulsion, the force and the compulsion can be initiated by the inmate.

If it's just your job at stake and not the rest of your future, not the prospect of

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1 future employment anywhere, not the prospect of 2 yourself becoming an inmate, one might succumb to 3 the temptation if you just think, well, the worst 4 that will happen is I will lose this job. I can 5 always resign before they come after me.

6 But if you know that you run the risk of 7 a conviction and that conviction will follow you 8 throughout your life and compromise your ability 9 to obtain other jobs, then your resistance is 10 that much greater.

It hink also it can serve to protect the employees. It can give them help in saying no to inmates who are attempting to seduce them by saying, You know I can't do this. It's against the law.

MR. LIGHTFOOT: This is not the same situation, but it renders some of the same results. I have managed two facilities that were nonsmoking facilities. No one smoked in the facilities.

21 And I've learned over a period of time 22 that those employees who smuggled in drugs in a 23 no-smoking institution, it almost virtually 24 disappeared, the drug part of it because they 25 could get almost the same money for bringing in

cigarettes.

So if they brought in cigarettes, they
could be fired but not locked up. If they
brought in marijuana, they would be subjected to
the law as well as losing their jobs. This is
the same thing. This law would do the same in
this particular case.
If now a person can have a sexual
relationship with a inmate and only be subjected
to losing his or her job, it's much more enticing
to get into that kind of act than if there was
law there were a law that would prohibit that
kind of thing. It's comparable to the cigarette
analogy as this.
CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: Commissioner
Horn, how many of our state prisons are smoke
free?
MR. HORN: As of today, none of them
are.
CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: I would suggest
that this might be a good avenue to pursue that
might help solve some of the drug problem.
MR. LIGHTFOOT: I didn't want to start a
problem with the Commissioner.
CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: Thanks for

1 telling about it.

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2	MR. HORN: We recognize the potential
3	utility of smoke-free prisons and we've
4	established a departmental work group consisting
5	of medical experts, security personnel,
6	psychiatrists, psychologists.
7 -	And we are working with the collective
8	bargaining agents to develop a plan to move the
9	Department towards a smoke-free environment. But
10	we think that in a department with 24 inmates
11	where we have inmates in mental health units for
12	whom smoking is a large part of their life that
13	we have to proceed carefully.
14	We have to work things through. We have
15	employees who come out on both sides of the
16	issue, and we have to respect their interests as
17	well. So we've begun the process. And I think
18	it's inevitable that we will get there, but it
19	will take us three to five years.
20	MR. LIGHTFOOT: Just let me say it's
21	very difficult to convert a facility over. If
22	you're going to build a facility and you start it
23	off with no smoking, you have a much better
24	chance.
25	But I've done both. Convert one over as

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1 well as bring in a new facility that's 2 nonsmoking. The conversion is much more 3 difficult. And I know what problems Secretary 4 Horn would be up against to convert his system 5 over. 6 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: Well, we want to 7 thank you, Warden Lightfoot and Commissioner Horn, for your testimony today and 8 9 for your willingness to be here. Thank you very 10much. Our next testifiers are Larry Frankel, the 11 Executive Director of the American Civil 12 Liberties Union. 13 And with him is Shelley Klein, who is 14 legislative intern with the American Civil Liberties Union. If you two folks would come up 15 forward. Before you give your testimony, I have 16 a letter that I want to read into the record. 17 18 The letter is from William F. Ward, who's the Chairman of the Pennsylvania Board 19 20 of Probation and Parole. It's addressed to the Honorable Thomas P. Gannon, Chairman of the House 21 22 Judiciary Committee. 2.3 Dear Chairman Gannon, it's my understanding that the House Judiciary Committee 24 will hold a public hearing on Senate Bill 833 on 25

1 April 1st, 1998. I write in support of Senate 2 Bill 833. The Bill would amend the Title 18 3 4 offenses of sexual assault and indecent assault 5 to include situations where the complainant was 6 in the custody of law or detained in a hospital 7 or other institution and the person has 8 supervisory or disciplinary authority over the 9 complainant. 10 It will also correct a change in the 11 statute made in 1995 restoring the original 12 intent of the legislation. The Warden's Code of 13 Conduct absolutely prohibits any sexual activity 14 between the warden's staff and parolee. 15 Accordingly, I support passage of this 16 legislation. Very truly yours, William F. Ward, 17 Chairman. 18 The testimony that is to be presented next is, I mentioned earlier, by the American 19 20 Civil Liberties Union. And, Shelley, I think you 21 are presenting it? 2.2 MR. FRANKEL: If I can make an 23 introductory comment, Mr. Chairman? 24 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: Yes, you may. 25MR. FRANKEL: My name is Larry Frankel.

I'm the Executive Director for the ACLU of
 Pennsylvania. I want to thank all of you for
 holding this hearing today and asking us to
 testify.
 I must say when this Bill came up in

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committee I was encouraged by the discussion and concerned whether this was a matter that was already covered by existing law.

9 Frankly, at times I think there are 10 other bills where such discussion is probably 11 worth pursuing and welcome the opportunity to 12 offer our views on whether existing law covers 13 the situation or whether an additional statute 14 may be necessary.

As you know, Ms. Klein is a law student at the University of Pennsylvania Law School participating in the Legislative Clinical Program. And she has really done the bulk of the research in preparation of the testimony today. And I now turn the microphone over to her.

21 MS. KLEIN: Good afternoon. My name is 22 Shelley Klein. I'm a second-year law student at 23 the University of Pennsylvania interning with the 24 ACLU this semester. I want to thank you for 25 inviting the ACLU to speak about Senate Bill 833.

1 In my testimony, I will review three 2 recent court decisions that shed light on the 3 question of whether existing law adequately 4 covers cases where a person in custody has been 5 subjected to sexual contact by one who has 6 supervisory or disciplinary power over them. 7 I will analyze whether a custodial 8 situation, per se, establishes the element of 9 forcible compulsion. It is my conclusion that 10 current law provides only a limited basis for 11 arguing that a person in authority necessarily 12 engages in forcible compulsion when he has 13 indecent contact with a person in custody. 14 Pennsylvania court decisions indicate that the concept of forcible compulsion is by no 15 16 means shaped to respond to what occurs in institutions where people are held against their 17 18 will. In 1986, the Supreme Court of 19 Pennsylvania in Commonwealth v. Rhodes held that 20 forcible compulsion may be accomplished by 21 psychological coercion. According to the court, 22 the phrase "forcible compulsion" clearly connotes 23 24 more than the existence of sheer physical force

or violence.

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The phrase also connotes the act of using superior force, moral, psychological or intellectual to compel a person to do a thing against that person's volition and/or will.

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5 In <u>Rhodes</u>, the defendant was charged 6 with rape, statutory rape, and other offenses. 7 The victim was an 8-year-old girl, and the 8 defendant was a 20-year-old male. The question 9 before the Supreme Court was whether there was 10 sufficient evidence to sustain a finding of 11 forcible compulsion.

12 The court listed several factors that 13 should be considered in determining whether 14 forcible compulsion has occurred. Among the 15 The respective ages of the victim factors are: and the accused; the respective mental and 16 17 physical conditions of the victim and the accused; the atmosphere and physical setting in 18 which the alleged incident took place; the extent 19 20 to which the accused may have been in a position of authority, domination or custodial control 21 22 over the victim; and whether the victim was under 2.3 duress.

<u>Rhodes</u> does indicate that sexual relations between a person in custody and a

1 person in power can be considered forcible 2 compulsion. However, in Rhodes the court relied on the age difference between the accused and the 3 4 victim and not on a concept of custodial control. 5 Thus, the extension of Rhodes to 6 institutional settings is uncertain. The 7 Pennsylvania Supreme Court addresses the issue of 8 whether psychological duress can constitute 9 forcible compulsion in Commonwealth v. Mlinarich. 10In that case, the defendant was 11 an adult guardian of a 14-year-old female. The 12 defendant threatened to have the 14-year-old girl 13 returned to a detention home if she did not 14 submit to his sexual demands. The court found that there was no 15 16 forcible compulsion because the victim had the 17 choice of refusing the demands and returning to 18 the detention home. In concluding that there was 19 insufficient evidence to establish forcible 20 The critical 21 compulsion, the court wrote: distinction is where the compulsion overwhelms 22 the will of the victim in contrast to a situation 23 2.4 where the victim can make a deliberate choice to avoid the encounter even though the alternative 25

1 may be an undesirable one.

2 Indeed, the victim in this instance 3 apparently found the prospect of being returned to the detention home a repugnant one. 4 Not 5 withstanding, she was left with a choice. And 6 therefore, the submission was the result of a 7 deliberate choice and was not an involuntary act. 8 This is not in any way to deny the 9 despicable nature of appellee's conduct or even to suggest that it was not criminal. 10We are 11 merely constrained to recognize that it meets (sic) the test of forcible compulsion. 12 13 The court did concede that there may be 14 cases where psychological coercion can be applied with such intensity that it may overpower the 15 will to resist as effectively as physical force. 16 17 Although <u>Mlinarich</u> contains language which indicates that sexual relations 18 between a person in custody and a person who has 19 power over the person in custody may be 20 considered forcible compulsion, the opinion sets 21 an extremely high standard of proof of forcible 22 compulsion. 23 In fact, this standard may be too high 24 to cover many cases of sexual assault on 25

1 prisoners by guards. Then there is the infamous 2 decision of <u>Commonwealth v. Berkowitz</u>, the case 3 that spurred the General Assembly to revamp its 4 sexual assault law. In that case, both the complainant and 5 6 the defendant were college students. The 7 complainant testified that the defendant had 8 engaged in sexual relations with her without her 9 consent. 10 The legal question before the Supreme 11 Court was whether the fact that the victim stated "no" throughout the sexual encounter was 12 13 sufficient evidence of forcible compulsion. 14 The Supreme Court held that where there was a lack of consent but no showing of physical 15 16 force, physical violence, or psychological 17 coercion, the forcible compulsion requirement is 18 not met. The opinion in Berkowitz then clearly demonstrates the limits of the concept of 19 20 forcible compulsion. 21 Senate Bill 833 will amend the law of 22 sexual assault by making it a strict liability 23 crime for an individual who while holding supervisory or disciplinary power over another 24 25 engages in sexual activity with a person in

1 custody. There can be no defense that the person 2 in custody consented to the sexual activity. While the current statute and case law 3 4 criminalize sexual assault by forcible 5 compulsion, it's not clear that courts would automatically consider any sexual activity 6 7 between supervisors and persons in custody a 8 Thus, Senate Bill 833 appears to go crime. 9 beyond existing law. 10 The ACLU believes that consideration of 11this legislation will require the General 12 Assembly to decide whether there should be 13 created a new criminal statute prohibiting any 14 and all sexual contact between guards and 15 inmates. On this specific issue, the ACLU takes 1617 no position. While the ACLU generally opposes the concept of strict liability crimes, we 18 19 certainly believe that female and male prisoners should not be subjected to sexual assault by 20 21 quards. If the evidence demonstrates that there 22 are a number of incidents of sexual assault by 23 24 prisoners and guards and that existing laws and disciplinary procedures are ineffective in 25

1 dealing with this problem, then there may be a 2 justification for this legislation. Thank you 3 for allowing me to testify today. I'll be happy 4 to answer any questions that you might have. ·5 MR. FRANKEL: I would like to add one observation based on what I heard from the 6 7 previous testimony and looking at the proposed language which is merely putting back in language 8 9 that was taken out. 10I think when we read the Bill and based 11 on some of the questions I heard, most of us assume this language refers to prison guards, not 12 other employees of the Corrections Department. 13 14 And I understand from the Commissioner's testimony that there are other 15 employees who engage in the kind of contact that 16 17 at least the Department seeks to prohibit. 18 And I certainly think that if this case were to go to a jury, a jury might find it 19 difficult no matter what the contract language 20 is to say that a food worker or some clerical 21 22 person is someone who has supervisory or 23 disciplinary authority. Therefore, I think there's another 24 policy question to be asked. And if, indeed, you 25

want to prohibit any employee of the Department of Corrections from having sexual relations with anybody who is in custody, I don't know that you merely want to reenact the language that was repealed because I don't think you'll cover all the employees necessarily.

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7 I can certainly see as a defense 8 attorney if I were representing that food worker, 9 I would make every argument and, I think, hopefully, fairly compelling to a jury that they 10 11 don't have supervisory or disciplinary authority over these people. They're not covered under the 12 statute. So if that is the direction you want to 1314 go, you may want to revisit this language.

15 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: I would disagree I have been in many prisons. 16 I have a with you. prison in -- virtually in my backyard that I have 17 been in as a visitor on many occasions; and 18 maintenance people and food service people do 19  $20 \cdot$ have direct supervisory control and disciplinary 21 of their employees.

I don't have a problem with that language being as inclusive as it is because I know personally some of our maintenance workers who have supervisory and control functions. And

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some of them take our work details out of the prison, and sometimes things happen that shouldn't happen in those cases. But for the most part, they do have direct authority over them.

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6 MR. FRANKEL: I don't disagree with the 7 fact that they might have authority. But I think 8 the perception of those who have never been in 9 the prison wouldn't be that. And then you might 10 have a jury who hasn't had that experience get 11 confused. I certainly as a defense attorney 12 would try and confuse them over the issue.

13 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: Defense attorneys 14are good at that, too, I might add. And it 15 would be clearly the District Attorney or Attorney General's office or whoever is 16 17 presenting the case to make that jury understand that there is a direct supervisory and 18 19 disciplinary function of that food service worker, and there are. 20

21 And that may involve taking the 22 jury into a prison to show them what they do. I 23 don't find that a hard case to make myself. I 24 understand the point you're making. I don't 25 think it's a hurdle you can't overcome. And

1 I --2 I merely made it as a MR. FRANKEL: point of caution to think about as you proceed. 3 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: 4 Okay. Thank you 5 very much. And, Mr. Frankel, if you'll agree to 6 augment the answers that your intern gives as she 7 is being questioned and then hopefully this will 8 be a good experience for you and this will not 9 turn you against the wheels of government in your 10 internship before you leave it. 11 I will turn to the Democratic Chairman 12 of the Committee for any questions he may have. 13 Representative Caltagirone? 14 REPRESENTATIVE CALTAGIRONE: (No audible 15 response.) CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: Representative 16Masland. 17 18 REPRESENTATIVE MASLAND: Just a comment. We were talking, former Prosecutor Feese and 19 20 myself as a former Assistant DA, that it is not always as easy as you would make it seem. 21 I had a case in a prison where the guard was charged 22 23 with taking marijuana in to a prisoner. 24 And it was a very difficult case. We. talked to the jurors later. It was not an easy 25

sell to say that this guy shouldn't have been doing that because who was your witness? Well, my witness was not a very lovely, sterling character, yes. So it does make it difficult.

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5 I guess my only question is, your 6 position right now is you don't have a position; 7 is that correct?

8 MS. KLEIN: Our position is only to say 9 that we don't think that the law adequately or 10would cover the kind of sexual relationship 11 between an inmate and a guard in every case, that 12 on a case-by-case basis it might be possible for 13 a prosecutor to argue that a prison employee has 14 that kind of coercive, custodial control over an 15 inmate to establish forcible compulsion but that 16 it would be very difficult to do and certainly 17 would not cover every case.

I think our testimony speaks to the question of whether there is a loophole in the law that would allow this kind of sexual encounter to go on in a prison. And I think that the law would. I think that it would not be considered forcible compulsion.

24 REPRESENTATIVE MASLAND: Especially if
 25 it's not a prisoner/guard situation.

Is that --

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2 Especially if it's not a MS. KLEIN: 3 prisoner/quard situation. But even if it were a 4 prisoner/quard situation and there were consent 5 by an inmate, I think there would really be no 6 way to show that it was forcible compulsion. 7 Because as the Berkowitz case shows, where there was a college student and there was 8 9 even "no" being asserted, the court called that 10reluctant submission and refused to find it to be 11 forcible compulsion. 12 So I think the trouble would really come 13 in if there was consent by an inmate. I think 14 that that would automatically mean that it could 15 not be considered forcible compulsion. 16 MR. FRANKEL: To augment --17 REPRESENTATIVE MASLAND: The Berkowitz case, I think that probably the Rhodes case might 18 19 be a little bit more --2.0 Right. MS. KLEIN: 21 But just to augment that, MR. FRANKEL: we do not oppose the Bill because we found 22 23 existing law covers it. I mean, I think that 24 what we're here to say is that at this point, if the policy decision based on the evidence 25

1 gathered today and from what I've heard today, 2 that there is a significant problem and there are 3 inadequate other means for addressing the problem 4 even though this becomes a strict liability 5 crime, we would think that, indeed, legislation may be appropriate.

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7 I don't know that until we hear all of what evidence or witnesses may have to present. 8 9 But, really, when we took a look at this Bill, it 10 was to make a determination whether, you know, we could come up and say, You don't need to do it, 11 it's already covered, and therefore we oppose it. 12 But we don't think it's already covered. 13

14 REPRESENTATIVE MASLAND: I appreciate And I think that's one of the reasons why 15 that. we're having the hearing. Because as you 16 recall, the discussion during the Committee 17 meeting was such that I think we were leaning 18 very, very firmly against passing this. 19 Thank 20 you.

CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: Representative 21 22 Josephs.

23 REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPHS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that Mr. Frankel, you 24 indicated that the way -- assuming that we have 25

1 to extend the law, just making that assumption 2 for this question and that in some way this does 3 extend the law but in a way that might not need 4 to lead to convictions, if we're talking about a 5 jury that's not familiar with some of these 6 contact -- contract terms, do you think there 7 might be a better way to cover the situations 8 that we're talking about by perhaps changing, for 9 instance, the definition of forcible compulsion 10 to add some phrase which might indicate relative 11. powerlessness or unequal power between parties or 12 some other definition rather than adding to the 13Bill in the way that the Bill is now presented to 14 us?

MR. FRANKEL: I would certainly be reluctant to start tinkering with the definition of forcible compulsion. If my memory serves me correctly about the at least two if not three sessions of deliberation over that aspect of the law, it really was a long process.

Not necessarily bad process, but it was long; and one does not need to revisit it. I would think the tinkering could be done in such a way as to just make it clear that an employee of the Department of Corrections shall not engage in

sexual relations with anybody in the custody of 1 2 the Department of Corrections. 3 Remove the notions of supervisor and 4 discipline or whatever and just make it clear so 5 that it's what the Commissioner and I understand 6 the prison society -- and the fact that they're 7 both on the same side of the Bill is probably 8 remarkable and ought to say something. 9 But that's what they're looking for is 10to stop that kind of behavior. And, you know, 11I'll let the former prosecutors and the Chair,  $12^{-1}$ you know, have their discussion as to whether making it more specific in the language that I 13 14 have just stated or something similar to that, 15 you know, just sends the -- at least it 16 eliminates a vagueness problem. It says, If you're an employee of this 17 department; and how you extend it down to the 18 jails of the counties, that's not language I'm 19 20 prepared to give off the top of my head. But it makes it clear and it makes it so 21 that somebody can't come in and say, I didn't 22 know; the law's too vague. Or, I'm not a 23 24 supervisor; I don't have supervisory or disciplinary authority. That would be the way 25

1 that I would suggest to deal with it and not 2 tinker with forcible compulsion. 3 REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPHS: Thank you. 4 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 5 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: I want to 6 introduce my counterpart on this Committee. He's 7 the Democratic Chairman of the Subcommittee on Crimes and Corrections; that is, Representative 8 9 James, Member to my right. And I will turn at 10 this time to Representative Feese for any 11 questions that he may have. 12 REPRESENTATIVE FEESE: Thank you, 13 Mr. Chairman. Mr. Frankel, just following up 14 with that train of thought on the issue of 15 supervisor and disciplinary authority. And 16 that's where I was heading the same direction 17 thinking, Well, maybe we should say the 18 Department of Corrections employee. But that even makes it more of a strict 19 20 liability crime, doesn't it? At least when we have the language "supervisory or disciplinary 21 authority", when we think of someone who has 22 23 control, we think of someone who has by the nature of their position, has some type of 24 25 coercive influence.

1 But if we say, employee, then we're even 2 broader. We're going beyond that. 3 MR. FRANKEL: And I follow you entirely. 4 And I certainly have reservations at all with 5 strict liability crimes to begin with and about having a broad category. But I also am being 6 7 cognizant of what I even learned just today. I read the statute, I mean, the proposed statute. 8 9 I only thought about prison guards. And 10 I think our testimony reflects that. I wasn't 11 thinking about any of the other kinds of workers 12 and is the level of manipulation and the benefits 13 of manipulation any better or any worse? 14 I think -- I think those are the kinds 15 of policy decisions that the Legislature will 16 have to make. But in terms of trying to make clear what behavior that's being prohibited while 17 making it a larger class of employees whose 18 19 behavior is prohibited, at least makes it clear. 2.0 And I as somebody, you know, other than the quard in the prison don't have to think, 21 22 Well, since I'm not a supervisory authority, I can go do this. Well, the prison guard can't. 23 Or have the prisoner say, the savvy prisoner 24 who's gone into the law library and reads the 25

1 statute, Well, you don't have any supervisory 2 authority over me; so we can have a sexual 3 relationship. 4 REPRESENTATIVE FEESE: But the other 5 side of that coin would be, and just using an 6 example, you would have a female employee who's a 7 secretary who has contact with a -- an insistent 8 or fairly aggressive male inmate and they have 9 sexual relations. 10 At least in the language now -- even 11 though she can write up that inmate -- at least 12 with the language now we have a jury of 12 13 individuals who could apply some degree of common 14 sense I think, and say, Well, that is not the 15 type of disciplinary authority we think rises to 16 the level necessary. 17 Chairman Birmelin might disagree with that, but I think sometimes you have to give 18 19 juries a little leeway to apply some good common 20sense to situations. I would --21 MR. FRANKEL: 22 **REPRESENTATIVE FEESE:** Just a strict 23 liability issue. MR. FRANKEL: I understand your point. 24 25 And also when you were giving that example I was

1 thinking about could there possibly be a female 2 security guard who does have supervisory 3 authority but the male employee is particularly manipulative, makes some kind of threats or 4 5 blackmail attempts against that? 6 It's a, you know, guard. Is there any 7 defense allowable at all in allowing the juries to exercise some, dare I say the word, 8 9 nullification power may be necessary? Because I don't know that we can imagine 10here today every possible situation and scenario 11 that may occur in a prison setting. And I 12 shouldn't even make it a female quard. 13 It could 14 be a male guard manipulated by a very large male 15 inmate. 16 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: I don't necessarily disagree with your statement either. 17 I want to thank you folks for your testimony. 18 Thank you very much for coming today. 19 20 MR. FRANKEL: Thank you. Our next CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: 21 testifier today is Angus Love, is the Policy 22 23 Chairman of the Pennsylvania Prison Society. Mr. Love, if you would come forward. 24 MR. LOVE: Good afternoon. 25

1 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: If I'm not 2 mistaken, you were present with this Subcommittee 3 when we were in Cambridge Springs Prison this 4 past August, is that --5 MR. LOVE: No, I was not. I was present 6 when you were in Philadelphia and City Council 7 Chambers. That was directly preceding that. 8 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: I'm trying to 9 remember where I met you. 10 MR. LOVE: Well, I was going to say --11CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: Was it the 12 Pittsburgh Prison hearings? 13 No, I don't believe -- unless MR. LOVE: 14 they were here? 15 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: No. No, they were in Pittsburgh. In any event, we welcome you 16 here today. And we ask you if you would to share 17 18 your testimony with us at this time? I thank you, Chairman 19 MR. LOVE: Birmelin. And I have testified before this 20 21 Committee on many times over the years. And I'm 22 happy to say that the fact that I'm supporting a 23 piece of legislation is not an April Fools' joke. Although, it is one of the first times 24 25 that I can recall that I am in support of

1 legislation and certainly one of the few times 2 I'm in agreement with Commissioner Horn and 3 certainly hope that there will be more times in 4 the future. 5 I'm testifying today on behalf of the 6 Pennsylvania Prison Society which was founded in 7 1787 (sic) by Dr. Benjamin Rush and several other signators of the Declaration of Independence from 8 9 English Rule. 10We are the nation's oldest prison reform 11 organization. We are empowered by the 12 Commonwealth with a broad scope of Official 13 Visitor Status in Pennsylvania's prisons and 14 jails. 15 I'm also the Executive Director of 16 Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project, which is a special project of Pennsylvania Legal Services 17 18 providing outreach to civil matters to the over 60,000 institutionalized people in our 19 20 Commonwealth. In the interest of full disclosure, I am 21 22 also representing three women from the State 23 Correctional Institute at Cambridge Springs: Lisa Lambert, Sara Vasquez, and Robin Phillips. 24 Each of these women allege they were 25

1 subject to unwanted sexual harassment, abuse, 2 and/or assault by correctional officials. They 3 also allege deficiencies in training, 4 supervision, and investigation of inmates' 5 complaints of sexual misconduct. 6 Case law involving around the Eighth 7 Amendment of the United States Constitution often 8 refers to the evolving standards of decency as a 9 benchmark to measure what is cruel and unusual 10punishment. 11 That comes from the landmark case 12 Dulles v. Trop, Supreme Court decision made in 1957. As society evolves, our laws must also 13 evolve. Given the convergence of several 14 historical trends, there is a need for passage 15 16 of legislation offered by SB 833. Twenty years ago, there were 8,000 17 18 people in the custody of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. Of those, 279 were 19 Those individuals were housed in seven 2.0 women. male institutions and one female institution, the 21 State Correctional Institute at Muncy. 22 Male institutions were serviced 23 primarily by male correctional officers and a 24 mixed gender staff patrolled the Muncy 25

1 facility. Since then, there has been an almost 2 five-fold increase in DOC population, which now 3 stands at roughly 36,000 individuals housed in 25 4 institutions.

5 One of the fastest growing segments of 6 that growth spurt has been the female offender. 7 Now there are two female institutions plus the 8 Bedford County Jail which contracts with the 9 Department of Corrections to handle the 10 overflow. I think it comes to roughly 1400 women.

In addition to these population trends, we have seen correctional officer positions opened to all individuals regardless of gender. Thus, there is now a significant number of both sexes at male and female institutions.

While we applaud the new employment opportunities for females, there has been the unfortunate by-product of many cross-gender issues being raised in the prison context.

When can a female officer work in a male housing block? Should strip searches be conducted by same sex staff? Should the DOC handle -- how should the DOC handle personal liaison between staff and inmates?

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We contend that Senate Bill 833 sends a

strong message on this emerging issue. In
 response to the rapidly expanding female
 population, the Department of Corrections
 purchased Alliance College and converted it into
 a female institution opening in 1992 called
 Cambridge Springs.

7 Even with the largest capital
8 construction program in DOC history, there has
9 still been a need for additional prison space.
10 Facilities such as old state hospitals,
11 rehabilitation centers, academic institutions
12 have been converted into prisons.

These facilities are not your typical
cellblock, high-walled secure facilities.
Dorm-style housing and open areas dominate these
facilities.

Convergence of trends -- of a rapidly expanding prison population, an evermore rapidly expanding female population, the need for additional prison space in nontraditional settings, and the increase of cross gender supervision have created a serious problem at the Cambridge Springs facility.

In the past few years, there have beenfive criminal convictions of male staff for

involvement with female inmates. There have been over a dozen terminations of staff for similar allegations. Our office has received complaints from several dozen women claiming harassment by staff.

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6 A volunteer of the Prison Society who 7 was investigating one of the claims had her 8 locker broken into and notes removed and also had 9 a gunshot put through the front door of her home 10 while she was investigating these allegations 11 which later turned out to result in a criminal 12 conviction of a guard.

To date, little or nothing has been done to address the pervasive atmosphere of sexual misconduct. And I stand corrected as I see Commissioner Horn does seem to have taken some steps regarding the training provisions.

This Bill would establish that sexual liaison between staff and inmates are criminal acts. There cannot be consent to sexual relations between staff and inmates in a prison context.

Other states and other courts have
recognized and codified this simple proposition.
Now it is time for our Commonwealth to add its

1 voice to this emergent issue. We respectfully 2 urge passage of SB 833. Thank you. 3 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: Representative 4 Feese. 5 REPRESENTATIVE FEESE: Thank you, 6 Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your testimony. I 7 have a question. I'm sitting here thinking if 8 the idea behind the Senate Bill is to 9 deter -- one of the ideas is to deter sexual 10 relations between employees of the Department 11 of Corrections and inmates and make it basically 12 a strict liability crime and if whereas we 13 evidently know from the testimony inmates are 14 sometimes the aggressors in this sexual relation 15 and you support this Bill because it would establish that sexual liaison between staff and 16 17 inmates are criminal acts, why should we not make it a criminal act for the inmate to have sex with 18 19 the employee? MR. LOVE: Why shouldn't the inmate be 20 21 charged criminally? REPRESENTATIVE FEESE: Let's charge the 22 23 inmate too. MR. LOVE: I never thought of that to be 24 honest with you. I'd have to give that some 25

thought. I don't think I would rule that out. I think, though, that, you know, the problem is that there's an unequal -- an unequal position in one being the custodian and one being the custodee. And I think generally we look to the

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individual who has the power as being the person to take the brunt of the responsibility. I'm not saying the other person is not blame free.

And the way things are now when these allegations are made by inmates, it's generally the inmates that suffer initially prolonged periods of confinement in the solitary confinement units while there's an investigation ongoing.

So the inmate is often punished
significantly even for bringing this matter to
light, regardless of the consequences.

19 REPRESENTATIVE FEESE: I agree that's what we're trying to get at; that is; the power 20 of the Department employee over the inmate. But 21 when we're talking strict liability, we're almost 22 removing that. We're saying it doesn't matter 23 just by the fact that you're a Department 24 25 employee.

1 And I think we could probably all come 2 up with some scenarios where the inmate has as 3 much authority -- not authority, but as much 4 power as a Department employee. And I was just 5 thinking that maybe we should just make it a 6 crime for both. 7 I don't know that that would deter 8 inmates; but it would certainly punish, which is 9 one of the goals of criminal law, not just 10 deterrent, but punishment. 11 MR. LOVE: Well, there was an incident 12 or there were several incidents at Muncy many 13 years ago where females became impregnated. Ι 14 don't know if it was by staff or inmates. 15 But the females were always then put in 16 the solitary confinement unit and often gave 17birth to the child in the solitary confinement I think the prior Commissioner Lehman 18 units. stopped that practice. And we were in favor of 19 20 that discontinuing of that practice. 21 REPRESENTATIVE FEESE: Thank you. Thank 22 you, Mr. Chairman. Follow-up to 23 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: Representative Feese's hypothetical and maybe, 24 Commissioner Horn, if you're still here you might 25

1 be able to answer that would that not be a 2 criminal defense if the inmate attacked and raped 3 an employee? 4 I mean, obviously, you would file 5 charges of rape and that inmate would then be 6 suspect to that charge, would he not? 7 I'm always pleased to share. MR. HORN: 8 MR. LOVE: So am I. 9 MR. HORN: I think if I understand your 10 question correctly -- and, again, I'm not an 11 attorney. But where an employee engages in 12 sexual conduct with an inmate where clearly the 13 employee resisted or said no and was forced 14 through physical force or the threat of force 15that clearly that would be a defense against this 16 crime. 17 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: Well, the question is, then they obviously would be charged 18 19 with the crime? 20 MR. HORN: Right. CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: Even though they 21 are inmates just as if they would violate drug 2.2 laws or stab another inmate or something like 23 24 that? 25 MR. HORN: The inmate would be charged

1 with the crime, yes, of course. And we have had 2 cases where inmates are charged with the crime of 3 assault and with sexual assault that they commit 4 that crime of rape or sexual assault or any form 5 of assault against a staff member. 6 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: Taking 7 Representative Feese's scenario to where I think he wanted to go was there is consensual sex. 8 9 There's not forcible and compulsion. Ιs 10there anything in the internal policy --11 Well, I think there is a MR. HORN: See, I think that the point is that 12 distinction. 13 the employee is capable of granting and 14 withholding consent because they are the ones who 15are in the power relationship. 16 They have the legal power over the inmate, that the inmate we are saying -- we are 17 18 saying that an inmate is incapable of giving 19 consent. And I think the reason why you wouldn't 20 21 charge the inmate in this case is that the staff member who engages in this conduct was capable of 22 walking away and going home at the end of the day 23 unless they were forced. In which case, the 24 force is the defense where the crime is charged 25

1 against the inmate.

2 REPRESENTATIVE FEESE: Thank you, 3 Mr. Chairman. But what we're doing is 4 eliminating the issue of consent mens rea intent 5 by just saying it's strict liability. 6 MR. HORN: As to the inmate. 7 **REPRESENTATIVE FEESE:** And strict 8 liability as to the --9 MR. HORN: As to the employee. We're 10 limiting the issue of consent as to the inmate. 11 REPRESENTATIVE FEESE: So if it's just 12 strict liability because you're an employee and 13 you have sexual relations with an inmate, why 14 should we not make it the reverse? 15 Now, I understand we're talking about 16 where the employee has authority and power, but we're reading that out of it now because we're 17 going to say it's strict liability. 18 19 MR. HORN: Right. Again, I'm not an 20 attorney. I don't understand the concept of 21 strict liability. So I'm not sure how to answer 22 it. 23 **REPRESENTATIVE FEESE:** Hypothetical. MR. LOVE: Certainly, inmates are 24 disciplined for any such activity and have been in 25

1 the past. 2 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: 3 Representative James. 4 **REPRESENTATIVE JAMES:** Thank you, 5 Mr. Chairman. And I'll -- I'm thankful for the 6 testimony that you -- both of you at the table. 7 Of course, you both may have to respond. 8 What bothers me oftentimes' is when there 9 are problems in bureaucracies and you have 10someone doing an investigation or checking it 11out, there's this intimidation or there's this 12 act of retaliation. And so it -- you know, I was kind of 13 14concerned when you said that one of your members 15was investigating the sexual assault or activity 16 up at Cambridge Springs and then something happened in which somebody was shot in a house. 17 18 And I just wondered, have there been any arrests in that area or as a result of that, what 19 20 happened to her? MR. LOVE: There were no arrests. The 21 police merely identified the bullet, I believe, 22 as a 38 caliber bullet or something to that 23 effect. And that was the end of it. 24 As I said, the incident was involving 25

1 Lisa Lambert; and the correctional officer was 2 convicted, I believe, of official oppression and 3 indecent sexual assault and is now in prison 4 himself. REPRESENTATIVE JAMES: And there haven't 5 6 been any other acts of intimidation or harassment 7 against the person? 8 MR. LOVE: No. I think this predated Commissioner Horn. But once the central office 9 10 got involved, the investigation changed and 11 became much more serious and eventually resulted 12 in some findings. REPRESENTATIVE JAMES: Thank you. 13 14 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: Representative 15 Masland. 16 REPRESENTATIVE MASLAND: (No audible 17 response.) 18 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: Representative 19 Caltagirone. 20 REPRESENTATIVE CALTAGIRONE: (No audible 21 response.) CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: Representative 22 23 Josephs. REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPHS: Thank you, 24 Mr. Chairman. I quess this is for you, Mr. Love. 25

I have never practiced criminal law at all, so my background just isn't good in answering for myself questions about strict liability crimes.

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But hypothetically, there is a sexual contact, let's say, just to make it more believable in general, say, between a male inmate and a female employee and somehow it comes to light. I mean, part of this is -- it's hard for me to think about how these things come to light in a prison setting, but somehow it comes to light.

12 If we passed 833 as it is now, would the 13 female employee be able to assert a defense of 14 being forced? Or would she be just convicted because there was a sexual, I mean, or run a real 15 16 serious chance of being convicted because there 17 was in some way acknowledged sexual contact 18 between an inmate and a supervisor or somebody who had disciplinary power over the inmate? 19 MR. LOVE: I'm not a criminal lawyer 20

either, but strict liability I'm familiar with in several different contexts. And I think it heightens the standard and eliminates a lot of the potential defenses of consent, et cetera. If it happened, then you're going to be

held liable more likely than not under a strict liability standard. There will be very little to say about it. That's my basic understanding of the concept.

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5 **REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPHS:** So there might 6 be some fact situation. And I know enough from 7 being in law school and having clients that you can never think of every -- any facts, I mean, 8 9 think of all the permeations for months and 10 months and then suddenly a client walks into your 11 office and there's a whole bunch of other facts 12 that you never thought of.

But there might possibly be some fact situation in which what the prison employee is trying to assert is some sort of force, perhaps, different than -- one is large, one is small, whatever. But if we pass this, it would make it more difficult for the prison employee to assert that defense.

20 MR. LOVE: Well, I agree, no, you can't 21 cover every situation. There's a few situations 22 that these hearings have brought forth today that 23 I hadn't thought of in the past.

However, in your scenario, one would assume that if an employee was alleging that

1 force was involved that the employee would 2 immediately go to the authorities. 3 If there was any element of coercion 4 involving an employee and an inmate, I would 5 assume, logically, the employee would immediately 6 go to a supervisory personnel and law enforcement 7 personnel and bring this to their attention. 8 And if they didn't, then one would have 9 to question whether or not that later assertion 10 when they were caught was credible. 11 REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPHS: Well, and 12 practically speaking, if the employee does that, people tend not to believe the inmate, period, 13 and they do believe the employee. So I think 14 maybe this is very hypothetical; but I couldn't, 15 you know, sort of resist it. That's how lawyers 16 17 are. MR. LOVE: Well, we always read 18 legislative history if it gets sticky. And I 19 think that some of the discussions today would 20 certainly be helpful in that context. 21 REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPHS: One other 22 thing. I -- as I said before, I really do agree 23 that there is no consent where there's these 24 unequal power relationships. I'm not sure that 25

1 the language that we're looking at solves the 2 problem. I wonder if you have any ideas how we 3 could solve the problem? 4 MR. LOVE: Well, I don't -- in Delaware, 5 there's a similar situation -- well, not similar. 6 But there's a situation in Delaware where a 7 female employee was impregnated by a guard. And in that case, the judge ruled in no uncertain 8 9 terms that there is no such thing as consent to 10 liaison of that nature. 11 So it could be a judicial pronouncement, 12 or it could be a legislative pronouncement. 13 Either way, I think it's a strong principle that 14 we should strive to achieve in the Commonwealth. 15 REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPHS: I'm not looking 16 for an answer now because I think we're running 17 out of time. But if you have some language 18 suggestions that might be better than this, I, for one, would appreciate getting them. And I 19 expect that the SubChairman would be happy to 20 21 receive them also. MR. LOVE: I'll give that some thought. 22 And there's also the private provider concept. 23 But I think the language is fairly strong. But I 24 25 think Larry had suggested perhaps a DOC employee,

81 1 but I think that might be less inclusive because 2 there are a significant number of private 3 providers in the prison context that that would 4 not cover. 5 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: 6 Representative Feese, you have a follow-up 7 question? 8 REPRESENTATIVE FEESE: Just a follow-up 9 comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Love 10referred to Delaware. Delaware has a crime 11 entitled, Sexual Relations in Detention Facility. 12 A person is guilty of sexual relations in a detention facility when being a person in 13 14 custody at a detention facility or being an 15 employee working at a detention facility a person engages in sexual intercourse or deviate sexual 16 intercourse on the premises of the detention 17 facility. So --18 MR. LOVE: So that covers both. 19 REPRESENTATIVE FEESE: Yes. Thank you 20 for referring me to Delaware. I like that 21 22 statute. We can look 23 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: forward to you introducing something similar to 24  $25 \cdot$ that in the near future then; is that correct?

1 REPRESENTATIVE FEESE: I'll be happy to 2 amend the section. 3 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: We want to thank 4 you for testifying, Mr. Love, and 5 Commissioner Horn for your second appearance. 6 MR. HORN: Thank you. 7 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: Our final 8 testifier today is Annemarie Kaiser. She is 9 Executive Director of the Pennsylvania District 10Attorneys Association. Welcome. 11 MS. KAISER: Thank you. Good afternoon. 12 My name is a Annemarie Kaiser. I am currently  $1.3^{-1}$ the Executive Director for the Pennsylvania 14 District Attorneys Association. 15 Prior to my current position, I served as a Deputy District Attorney in Dauphin County. 16 17 While in Dauphin County, I prosecuted both child abuse cases and adult sexual offenses. 18 19 Please keep in mind when you're hearing my testimony today that the opinions set forth in 20 21 my testimony do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Pennsylvania District Attorneys 22 23 Association. My own observations and opinions as a former prosecutor are the basis for my 24 25 testimony on the proposed legislation.

1 The Executive Committee of the 2 Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association as 3 well as the general membership of the Association 4 have not taken an official position on the 5 legislation. However, I intend to bring it to 6 their attention at the annual meeting. 7 As the legislation indicates, there are 8 several professions which by their very nature 9 allow an individual to obtain power or influence 10over another individual. These include doctors, psychotherapists, 11 12 dentists, physicians, and counselors as well as 13 other professionals. Senate Bill 833 and the 14 amendments thereto attempt to penalize individuals who have obtained such authority and 15 16 misused it to engage in sexual activities with another individual. 17 Although clearly well-intentioned, the 18 legislation as it is currently proposed may 19 hinder prosecutorial efforts. Under the current 20 status of law, a defendant convicted of rape by 21 forcible compulsion has committed a felony of the 22 23 first degree. When one considers the term, forcible 24 compulsion, he or she may believe this term to 25

1 mean that the victim was taken until they were 2 beaten, until they were unconscious and therefore 3 forced to engage in sexual activity. 4 Reviewing the law in this area, this 5 definition is clearly erroneous. As we all know, 6 there are situations where a victim is so 7 emotionally threatened by the perpetrator that 8 the victim is not consenting to the act despite 9 the fact that the victim is not severely beaten. 10 The courts have recognized that such 11 instances often occur. Furthermore, the Legislature and courts have determined that this 12 13 perpetrator's acts are no less egregious. 14 Thus, the definition of forcible compulsion includes situations where the 15 defendant used moral, psychological, or 16 intellectual force to compel the victim to comply 17 18 with their wishes. And as previously noted, the case of 19 20 Commonwealth versus Rhodes is cited in my testimony at 510 Atlantic 2d 1217, 1986. A 21 defendant also commits a felony of the first 2.2 23 degree if he engages in sexual intercourse with a victim who is incapable of consent because of 24 25 mental disability.

1 As proposed, Senate Bill 833 would carve 2 out an exception for situations where the victim 3 is staying in an institution, hospital, or 4 correctional facility. The exception would be characterized as a felony of the second degree. 5 6 If the legislation is enacted as it is 7 presently proposed, defendants who prey on 8 persons staying in these facilities would be 9 subject only to a second-degree felony. 10 Another point to consider is that if an inmate in a correctional facility is raped by 11 12 another inmate, the current law would 13 characterize it as a felony of the first degree 14 under the theory of forcible compulsion. However, under the proposed law, if an 15 inmate is raped by a prison official, it is a 16 17 second-degree felony. Essentially, the 18 legislation would create unnecessary confusion. 19 Further complications arise with the amendments 20 which provide for a second-degree felony when a psychotherapist engages in sexual activity with a 21 22 patient. 23 First, as I previously noted, if the

First, as I previously noted, if the perpetrator used emotional and psychological coercion tactics to rape the patient, a felony of

1 the first degree has been committed. Secondly, 2 the proposed amendments create problems in 3 situations which may not have been contemplated. 4 Here are a few examples: No. 1, an 5 individual who has recently sought advice 6 regarding a career change has decided to obtain 7 counseling. The individual goes to the counselor 8 for one visit and discusses available career 9 options. 10 At the conclusion of the session, the 11 individual determines that is not necessary to 12 see the therapist any further. Three months later, the individuals, both single, unexpectedly 13 14 meet at a social event. 15 The two begin dating and eventually 16 engage in sexual intercourse. Under the proposed 17 legislation and the way I've reviewed the 18 legislation, I believe the therapist could be convicted of a felony of the second degree. 19 20 Second example: An individual goes to see a therapist for one visit and determines that 21 22 he's attracted to the female therapist. Both parties are single. The client expresses his 23 interest in the therapist, and they both 24 determine that the client should be referred to 25

1 another counselor.

The parties begin dating after one month passes and get married approximately four months later. They consummate the marriage. The female therapist under my reading of the legislation could be convicted of a felony of the second degree.

8 These examples serve to illustrate 9 situations that would result in severe criminal 10 penalties. In summation, being sexually 11 assaulted by a counselor, doctor, or any 12 individual who has power or influence over a 13 victim is clearly a devastating situation for the 14 victim.

However, as a former prosecutor, I find this legislation may weaken the existing law by reducing the grading of the offense and it will serve to create more problems than it cures.

I also would mention again that these
views are not the views of the Pennsylvania
District Attorneys Association as they have not
reviewed the legislation.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to address you on this matter, and I welcome any questions that you may have at this time.

1 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: I think there may 2 be some. I'll begin with Representative 3 Caltagirone. 4 REPRESENTATIVE CALTAGIRONE: No. 5 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: Representative 6 Masland. 7 REPRESENTATIVE MASLAND: (No audible 8 response.) 9 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: Representative 10 Feese. 11REPRESENTATIVE FEESE: No questions. 12 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: I may have been 13 mistaken. 14 MS. KAISER: Okay. Representative 15 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: 16 James. 17 REPRESENTATIVE JAMES: No questions. Representative 18 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: 19 Josephs. REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPHS: I think that 20 your criticism of my amendments is not far from 21 the mark; but I wanted to explain to you and at 2.2 23 least so when you go to the District Attorneys Association you don't -- you don't characterize 24 me and my abilities based only on these 25

amendments.

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2 MS. KAISER: I apologize. I did not 3 mean it to come across as a harsh criticism. Ι 4 believe that the legislation is clearly 5 well-intentioned, and I think it is a devastating 6 situation for any victim that has to go through 7 that. 8 **REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPHS:** I agree with 9 you that the amendments make the situation worse. 10And that is really one of the reasons or the main 11 reason why I thought them up and introduced them. 12 Because it seemed to me that Senate Bill 13 833 was weakening the power of the District 14 Attorney, for the prosecutor to find in cases 15 that the present law was correct and covered as 16 much as we need it to cover. 17 Now, I didn't think of some of the objections that you brought out. But I thought 18 of objections in which, for instance, you might 19 20 find the defendant able to persuade a jury, as 21 was brought up before, that the alleged perpetrator somehow didn't fit into the 22 23 definition that's being proposed in Senate Bill 833 and that in that case, the person might be 24 25 able to escape prosecution. And if we didn't

1 have Senate Bill 833, the person would be 2 more -- perhaps more likely to be convicted. 3 I proposed the amendments to make that point, to say, you can go on and on naming people 4 5 and it doesn't make the Bill any better, that we 6 ought to stick with the language that we have, 7 and we ought not to fiddle with it; that the 8 Department of Corrections' problem in getting 9 these cases prosecuted lies not in the statute, 10 but somewhere in the system. 11 And that was my point. I don't intend 12 to insist on those amendments. But I do think that Senate Bill 833 as it stands does not do 13 14 what we want it to do, and I would look towards you as I've asked the other witnesses if you have 15 16 any suggestion for language to do what we want it to do, which is to absolutely prohibit sexual 17 contact between people in these unequal power 18 situations, I would be happy for that suggestion 19 20 and not necessarily at this moment. MS. KAISER: I would be happy to look 21 22 into the matter further. As I sat here and listened today, I myself contemplated situations 23 that -- how to remedy the situation and make it 24 real specific so that if there is a loophole, if 25

1 cases go through, that they could be covered. 2 But I can't find any sitting here today. 3 I mean, perhaps it's something that requires 4 further study. The way the legislation stands in 5 my opinion only is that it's too expansive. 6 I think there's always going to be these 7 situations that could occur that are going to create further problems. For example, the 8 9 situation that was just brought up where you have 10 this inmate who might be large, physically 11 overpowering against somebody who works in the 12 facility, attacks them, and, technically, they could be prosecuted from my reading under the 1.314 statute. And I don't think that that's what the 15 Legislature is intending to do. 16 REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPHS: I think we have 17 a problem, but I don't want to replace it with a 18 worse problem. And that was the -- that's the intent of my amendments and that's the intent of 19 my remarks and my thoughts on this Bill. 20 Thank 21 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. you. 2.2 CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: Before I forget, 23 I'd like to direct the Secretary of the Committee to be sure that copies of all of the testimony 24 today is given to those Members who were not in 25

attendance. I'll turn now to Representative 1 2 Masland who does have a question. 3 REPRESENTATIVE MASLAND: Thank you, 4 Mr. Chairman. I'm not going to give you another 5 hypothetical because I think we've about reached 6 our quota on those. 7 I would suggest, though, that the last 8 one you did with the inmate who was overpowering, 9 I think then there's not so much a defense in 10 that instance; but if the inmate overpowers the 11 employee, then the employee is the victim, 12 clearly. So it depends on how far the facts go 13 14 But there was one point that you made with that. that I think should be clarified. On the second 15 page of your testimony, you talked about if an 16 inmate is raped by another inmate that's a felony 17 in the first degree. 18 However, under the proposed law, if an 19 20 inmate is raped by a prison official, it is a second-degree felony. It may be a second-degree 21 22 felony under Senate Bill 833, but that would not preclude the prosecutor from pursuing the 23 24 first-degree felony also. MS. KAISER: From the way I reviewed the 25

1 language when I was looking at the Bill as it was, I realize that was the intent. However, examining the Bill on its face, I didn't see anything that indicated that it's clearly a consensual situation; and, therefore, that does not preclude you from prosecuting under the forcible compulsion.

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8 So I think if this Bill were to go 9 forth it's something that may need to be 10 clarified because I think an astute defense attorney would quickly raise to a judge that, 1112 Wait, they're prosecuting under the wrong 13 section.

14 REPRESENTATIVE MASLAND: We may need to clarify the language. I think there is some good 15 16 intent behind it. But I think there's some questions that were raised at the original 17 Committee meetings and maybe we'll have to go to 18 Nevada, Arizona, and Delaware statutes, which we 19 20 normally do here, and see whether they have some 21 advice that we can follow. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: I want to thank 23 Attorney Kaiser for your testimony and the issues 24 that you raised, and we appreciate your coming 25

Thank you.

MS. KAISER:

here today. MS. KAISER: Thank you. I appreciate everyone hearing my testimony. CHAIRPERSON BIRMELIN: This meeting is adjourned. (At or about 2:50 p.m., the deposition was concluded.) 

1 CERTIFICATE 2 I, Deirdre J. Meyer, Reporter, Notary 3 Public, duly commissioned and qualified in and 4 for the County of Lancaster, Commonwealth of 5 Pennsylvania, hereby certify that the foregoing 6 is a true and accurate transcript of my stenotype 7 notes taken by me and subsequently reduced to 8 computer printout under my supervision, and that 9 this copy is a correct record of the same. 10 This certification does not apply to any 11 reproduction of the same by any means unless 12 under my direct control and/or supervision. 13 14 15 16 er, Rep er dre J. Notary Public. My commission 17 expires August 10, 1998. 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

### Senate Bill 833

1	8	addition 66:11 additional 30:5; 43:13;	91:6 <b>amend</b> 42:3; 48:21; 82:2	48:4, 22; 49:4, 20, 23; 65:2; 73(4); 75:15; 76:3
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<b>10</b> 23:25	<b>8-year-old</b> 45:7	address 10:4; 68:14;	amendment 6:15; 10:6;	Assembly 17:21; 48:3;
<b>12</b> 61:12	<b>833</b> 5:14; 6:19; 9:17, 19;	87:24	28:16, 22; 29:6; 65:7	49:12
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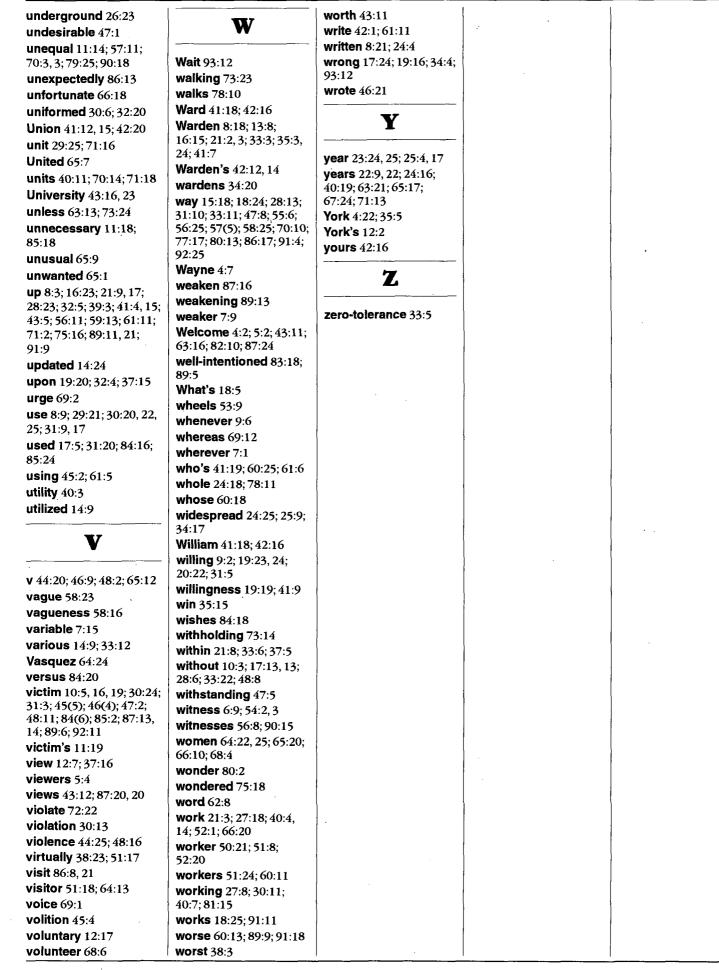
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