Robert P. Murray, Ed.D. United States Coast Guard Academy 15 Mohegan Avenue New London, CT 06320-4195

July 21, 2004

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is written in support of Ms. Michelle Bussolotti in her position as community educator at the Women's Center of Southeastern Connecticut Inc.

Ms Bussolotti and her agency have been an outstanding resource to us at the Coast Guard Academy as we address the issue of violence and assault directed at women. She has delivered a number of trainings to our cadets on this issue. Most recently she coordinated and presented a twenty-hour training to a group of cadet volunteers, which allowed them to become certified responders to a "help line" which we developed at our academy last spring.

The military in general and military in particular academies have received a great deal of negative reports and media coverage regarding the problem of sexual assault and sexual harassment within its environment. The Coast Guard Academy has not had these problems, to the degree that other military settings have had. We attribute that to an active educational program focused on cadets and other students. Ms. Busolotti in her position as community educator has been a critical contributor to our education efforts. We expect and hope this positive collaboration can continue, which will benefit our students now and in the future.

If there are questions relative to this issue please feel free to contact me at 860-444-8520 or rmurray@exmail.uscga.edu

Sincerely,

Robert P. Murray, Ed.D.

Licensed Psychologist

Director, Center for Counseling and Development