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LATE TESTIMONY

January 28, 2008

To: House Committee on Health and Human Services and  
House Committee on Health

From: Jeanne Ohta

Re: HB 2334 Relating to Crime  
Hearing: January 29, 2008, 8:50 a.m., Conf. Rm. 329, 3 copies

Position: Strong Opposition

Good morning, I am Jeanne Ohta, testifying in strong opposition to HB2334 Relating to Crime, which provides mandatory minimum sentences for crimes against certain persons. This measure would add pregnant women to that special class of victims.

I am opposed to solving this issue by imposing a special value on the lives of pregnant women as compared to all other women. While this bill is meant to address a crime that has been widely publicized, I believe that it ultimately does not provide any additional protection for pregnant women and could have unintended consequences.

I encourage legislators to find out why current systems and policies are not working to protect women from their batterers. Batterers seem to face small or light sanctions and then continue to batter their partners; often with escalating violence. Improving those systems will do more to protect women.

I urge you to hold this bill and not let public emotion and sentiment push this bill and its unintended consequences. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.