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RIGHTS GROUP WANTS CHARGES DROPPED AGAINST TEACHER

Calls on prosecutor to drop charges; CT to amend statute

Washington, **D.C.** | **February 14**, **2018**—The National Association for Rational Sexual Offense Laws (<u>NARSOL</u>) calls on New Britain State's Attorney Brian Preleski to discontinue the prosecution of Tayler Boncal.

Tayler Boncal, a 22-year-old track coach at Conrad High School in West Hartford, has been charged with three counts of second-degree sexual assault for having a totally consensual relationship with an 18-year-old student. Based on the application for the arrest warrant, it was the adult male who initiated the relationship with Ms. Boncal, and he was never a member of the track team that Ms. Boncal coached.

NARSOL, a nationally recognized non-profit dedicated to restoring the civil and constitutional rights of registered sex offenders, believes that criminal charges in this instance are unwarranted. Any law that allows an adult to be criminally prosecuted for having a consensual relationship with another adult should be abolished. Therefore, we strongly encourage the Connecticut General Assembly to amend this statute to prevent adults in mutual and loving relationships from being prosecuted for consensual sex.

Due to the potential harm to any number of people if this prosecution is allowed to go forward and if the law is not changed, NARSOL will be keeping a very close eye on all proceedings and plans to have a representative in New Britain on March 1 to attend Ms. Boncal's upcoming court appearance.

Brenda Jones, NARSOL's Executive Director, stated: "They're both legally adults. Ms. Boncal is only 22-years-old. A criminal conviction for sexual assault will require her to register as a sex offender and very likely damage her future and end her ability to function as a productive, contributing citizen. Where is the safety imperative here?

"The school district is free to suspend Ms. Boncal or impose such discipline it deems appropriate. The state may even see fit to suspend or revoke her teaching credentials. But involving the police and pursuing criminal charges that could ruin her life are far in excess of what is appropriate or morally justified.

Cindy Prizio, President of Connecticut for One Standard of Justice (<u>CTOSJ</u>) had this to say, "If Connecticut considers Boncal's judgment so faulty that she shouldn't be working with older teens—some of whom are already adults—then the responsible thing to do is remove her from the school setting. But don't label her a sex offender and destroy the rest of her life!"

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National Association for Rational Sexual Offense Laws

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