

SNAP Press Statements

Statement Regarding Bridgeport, CT Settlement Agreement

**For immediate release:
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**Statement by Landa Mauriello-Vernon, victim of sexual abuse by a nun and
CT State Director for SNAP**

**For more information:
David Clohessy of St. Louis, National Director (314) 566-9790 cell
Landa Mauriello-Vernon of Hamden, CT State Director (203)687-8072 cell**

**"We hope that this settlement will help this wounded person take one step
further toward healing and closure.**

**We commend him for having the courage to come forward, report the
abuse, and prod church leaders toward change.**

**At the same time, we know that there is no sudden, magical "cure all" that
erases years of pain, self blame, broken trust, shattered self confidence,
ruptured faith, and the other horrific long term effects of childhood
victimization.**

**So we hope this victim will remain in therapy, self help groups, and any
healing activity so that his recovery can continue.**

**We caution Catholics against reading more into this settlement than they
should. Sadly, it is most likely a business decision by the church lawyers
and accountants, designed in part to prevent evidence of cover ups from
being presented in open court. We doubt that it signals any
transformation or improvement in how church leaders really feel about and
act toward abuse victims.**

And, it will stop the deposition of Cardinal Egan.

**Finally, we hope that this news will encourage others who are still trapped
in silence and self-blame to report these crimes to police and prosecutors.
We also hope they will turn to us for support.**

**The church, our state, and our world is safer only when victims find the
strength and courage to come forward and report these crimes."**

