

Act Number:	09-125	
Bill Number:	5635	
Senate Pages:	4587-4599, 4794-4796	16
House Pages:	2680-2693	14
Committee:	Public Health: 882-911, 1148-1160	43
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request it be placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

There is a motion on the floor to place the item on Consent. Seeing no objection, so ordered.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Calendar Number 600, File Number 367, House Bill 5635, AN ACT CONCERNING ULTRASOUND PROCEDURES FOR MEDICAL AND DIAGNOSTIC PURPOSES, favorable report of the Committee on Public Health. Clerk is in possession of amendments.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harris.

SENATOR HARRIS:

Thank you, Mr. President. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Acting on acceptance and approval of the bill, sir, will you remark further?

SENATOR HARRIS:

Thank you. I will, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

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SENATOR HARRIS:

Mr. President, this bill involves ultrasound, the use of high frequency sound waves for diagnostic purposes. It has become an important tool in medicine. When used appropriately in a controlled manner, in moderation, under supervision of professionals, it is an invaluable tool for keeping people healthy and safe.

There has, in the last couple of years around this country and in the State of Connecticut, been a use of ultrasound that is not proper. It is called "keepsake imaging," and you've heard of some of these companies that have come up, Womb With A View, Look Who's Kicking, First Sight Ultrasound, and what these businesses do are to take pictures of the fetus in utero for entertainment purposes, for a use on the mantelpiece. There's some evidence that they claim that there's a bonding that comes with a child, but basically it is entertainment purposes.

And of course, we all know, when we're using high frequency sound waves, there is a risk associated, even with use, but of course with overuse and with improper use that is not supervised by a medical professional.

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Mr. President what this bill will do will protect pregnant women from potential dangers of ultrasound for these uses that are really for entertainment. Specifically the bill says that no person shall perform an obstetrical ultrasound, so this about ultrasound used on a pregnant woman, connected with pregnancy, (comma)unless it's been ordered by a licensed health care provider acting within the scope of such license provider's authority and it's being done for medical and diagnostic purpose.

Mr. President, I urge passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

Will you remark further?

Senator Debicella.

SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I stand in strong support of this bill. I thank Senator Harris for his leadership and guidance on it. Mr. President, a woman's health, especially during pregnancy, needs to be of paramount importance for our state, and the bill before us today would stop a small but growing practice.

Mr. President, at the start of the session, I

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didn't even know that this existed, that you could go and basically have one of these businesses take literally dozens of pictures of your unborn child outside of a hospital. And while ultrasound in low doses, the amount normally done in a hospital, is safe and medically necessary, to subject your unborn child to repeated blasts of ultrasound for the purposes of cosmetics and getting pictures is dangerous both to the health of the woman and to the unborn child.

And so, Mr. President, I think that this is a very reasonable bill. There honestly are not that many of these businesses in Connecticut yet. This is a very small but growing issue that we found. I think Senator Harris, by bringing this bill forward, has actually nipped what is potentially a huge issue for women's health in the bud. I support this bill, and I encourage the Chamber to pass it. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

Will you remark further?

Senator Prague.

SENATOR PRAGUE:

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I

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certainly support this bill as drafted, but I want to make something very clear for legislative intent.

There are people who use ultrasound equipment who go around to the different senior centers. They give the seniors physicals, and they use this equipment to determine whether their arteries are clogged, for instance. It is harmless, but I want to make it very clear that this bill is specifically for pregnant women.

When a pregnant woman goes to the doctor for her monthly checkup, the doctor can then order an ultrasound. She doesn't have to go specifically just to get the order from the doctor for an ultrasound because that, again, would increase the cost of our health care, but while she's there for the monthly checkup, he can order it.

I was concerned that there may be a misconception that no ultrasound could be used unless it was ordered by a physician, but Senator Harris clearly explained that the legislation is directed at pregnant women and that these other ultrasound uses will not be prohibited. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, ma'am.

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Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President. I'm glad I rose after Senator Prague because I was going to ask that very same question. As many of us do, we sign up to visit senior centers and speak to different communities, and because I signed up at one of my senior centers, I received this postcard in the mail about how they -- this McMahon Senior Center in Thomaston they were going to have people there doing these type of ultrasounds, so I was going to ask that question, but Senator Prague you have answered that for me. Thank you very much.

I do appreciate the work of the Public Health Committee and Senator Harris. I do believe this is a good piece of legislation and should go forward. I do think, however, that not one apple does spoil the bunch, and I do think there are some good companies out there that do their best in offering these type of services and in all ethical practices. For that reason, Mr. President, the Clerk is in possession of amendment LCO 7256. I'd ask the Clerk to call the amendment and I be allowed to summarize.

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Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

LCO 7256, which will be designated Senate Amendment Schedule A, is offered by Senator Kane of the 32nd District.

THE CHAIR:

There is a motion on the floor by the Senator to summarize. Seeing no objection, please proceed, sir.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President. I move adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Motion is on adoption. Without objection, please proceed.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President. What this amendment does is set standards for provisions for elective diagnostic obstetrical ultrasounds in exchange for professional fees that these companies would have to pay to do so. It would max the amount of time permitted that an ultrasound can take place, how long they can actually perform the actual ultrasound. It would set limits to the ultrasound to a calculation of gestational age, fetal position, fetal heart rate and fetal movement. It would set a maximum number of

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times that the elective procedure a woman can have this type of ultrasound during her pregnancy, provides for training and certification requirements for those who administer the ultrasound, and provides for certification and inspection requirements concerning the medical devices used.

So I believe in working with the industry that these types of standards, if we set forth, can be a laudable goal in making this law even a bit better -- a bit better I should say rather than the reverse. So I ask that the Chamber support this amendment and it be taken by roll call vote.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

A roll call vote will be ordered.

Senator Harris.

SENATOR HARRIS:

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I stand in opposition of this amendment. I want to thank Senator Kane for his work on this. I think what he's trying to do makes sense. You know, I think he's trying to figure out a way because there are businesses out there, and this bill is not -- the

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underlying bill is not saying that the people that have these businesses are evil or they're doing something that's abhorrent in a way. They're using a technology in a way that they believe is appropriate. And I think what Senator Kane is trying to do is come up with a way kind of to split the baby, so to speak, like Solomon, but there's really actually no way to do it here. So that's why I oppose this.

What Senator DeBicella and I learned -- and I want to thank him for his support and leadership on bringing this forward -- we, again, just the like Senator said, this kind of came out of nowhere when we learned about it. It's pretty clear, when you look at the FDA and other bodies that we use to judge the health and safety and welfare of our people, that there probably is no safe way to do this.

And so I think that the bright line test of just not allowing it makes much more sense, and that's why I'm going to be opposing this amendment, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

Will you remark further on Senate A? Will you remark further?

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If not, Mr. Clerk, please call for a roll call vote. The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate. Will all Senators please return to the chamber. Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate. Will all Senators please return to the chamber.

THE CHAIR:

Have all Senators voted? If all Senators have voted, please check your vote. The machine will be locked. The Clerk will call the tally.

THE CLERK:

Motion is on adoption of Senate Amendment Schedule A.

Total Number Voting	36
Necessary for Adoption	19
Those voting Yea	9
Those voting Nay	27
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

Amendment A fails.

Will you remark further on House Bill 5635?

Will you remark further on House Bill 5635?

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Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thanks, Mr. President. Ordinarily I'd be against an initiative like this: however, because of the uncertainty of what the ultimate effect is on embryos and perhaps the mother, it is of concern to me, and I'm considering seriously supporting this, and I have a question. After having gone through myself, not being the patient being given the ultrasound, but having been a participant in the process many, many dozens of times, I'm very familiar with it, but I do have a question, through you, Mr. President, for Senator Harris.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harris.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Senator Harris, thank you. Thanks for bringing this legislation in front of us, and just so that we have some data if we are ever asked a question about this initiative here today, do you have any idea, is this a large number of companies? Is it less than 10 or 15 or so in the state of Connecticut?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harris.

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SENATOR HARRIS:

Thank you, Mr. President. Through you to -- I didn't know that Senator Frantz was pregnant at any point.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Oh boy, here we go.

SENATOR HARRIS:

Through you, Mr. President, first of all I want to say that Senator Frantz raised a legitimate question because this was something that was of concern to Senator DeBicella and I because there are businesses out there and we realize that this will essentially put those businesses out of business. I know of three companies that I've talked to personally, and I believe there are some others out there, but it is a relatively small number. I believe it's three that I know of.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you very much, and if I do look pregnant, it's all Senator Boucher fault. She brought in a whole bunch of pastries this morning. Thank you very much, Senator Harris. Thank you, Mr. President.

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THE CHAIR:

Thank you. You've got to watch those Italian pastries.

Will you remark? Will you remark further on the bill?

Senator Harris.

SENATOR HARRIS:

Thank you, Mr. President. If there's no objection, I'd move that this matter be put on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Senator has requested House Bill 5635 be placed on the Consent Calendar. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Calendar page 10, Calendar Number 605, Files Number 583 and 903, Substitute for House Bill 6200, AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF LONG-TERM ANTIBIOTICS FOR THE TREATMENT OF LYME DISEASE, as amended by House Amendment Schedule A, favorable report of the Committee on Public Health.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harris.

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SENATOR GAFFEY:

Mr. President, if there's no objection I'd ask that the bill be moved to the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

The Senator has requested that the bill be placed on the Consent Calendar. Seeing no objection, so ordered sir.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President we had one item previously placed on the Consent Calendar that I would move now to remove from the Consent Calendar and to mark it pass temporarily. And that was Calendar page 8, Calendar 582, House Bill 5436.

THE CHAIR:

There's a motion on the floor to remove an item from the Consent Calendar and to PT it. Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, thank you Mr. President. Mr. President, if the Clerk might now call the items on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk please call Consent Calendar Numero

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Uno.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate on the Consent Calendar. Will all senators please return to the chamber. Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the chamber.

Mr. President the first Consent Calendar begins on Calendar page 1, Calendar 681, House Joint Resolution Number 121; Calendar page 4, Calendar Number 401, Substitute for House Bill 5669; Calendar page 5, Calendar 456, Substitute for House Bill 5019; Calendar page 7, Calendar 532, House Bill 6448; Calendar page 8, Calendar 8 -- correction, Calendar 580, Substitute for House Bill 6531; Calendar page 9, Calendar 597, Substitute for House Bill 6114; Calendar Number 600, House Bill 5635; Calendar page 10, Calendar 605, Substitute for House Bill 6200.

Calendar page 14, Calendar Number 644, House Bill 6391; Calendar 650, Substitute for House Bill 6540; Calendar page 16, Calendar 657, House Bill 6541; Calendar page 29, Calendar 330, Substitute for Senate Bill 954; and Calendar page 34, Calendar Number 504, Substitute for Senate Bill 939.

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Mr. President that completes those items placed on the first Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, please call the Consent Calendar again, the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The Senate is now voting by roll call on the Consent Calendar. Will all senators please return to the chamber. The Senate is now voting by roll call on the Consent Calendar. Will all senators please return to the chamber.

THE CHAIR:

Have all senators voted? If all senators have voted please check your vote. The machine will be closed. The Clerk will call the tally.

THE CLERK:

Motion is on adoption of Consent Calendar Number 1.

Total Number Voting	36
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

/ Consent Calendar 1 passes.

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Speaker. I rise today again as Representative Orange said to thank Frederick Taramae for his service here in the internship program. It's been an absolute pleasure to work with him every day over the last several months and I'm sad to see him leave. I don't know what we're going to do without him in the next coming weeks especially as things get busier and busier. And again I think we owe him a special debt of gratitude not just for his time here as an intern but for the service he's about to give once again to his country. And I ask that all the members of the chamber please rise and give him a tremendous round of applause.

THE CLERK:

Thank you so much. Thank you for your service here at the General Assembly and we wish you all the best and we hope to see you very, very soon. All the best. Thank you very much for all of your service.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Will the Clerk please call calendar number 260.

THE CLERK:

On page eight, calendar 260, House Bill number 5635, an act concerning ultrasound procedures for medical and diagnostic purposes favorable report of

the Committee on Public Health.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Representative Heinrich, you have the floor,
ma'am.

REP. HEINRICH (101st):

Madam Speaker, I move for acceptance of the Joint
Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

The motion before us is not accepted to the Joint
Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.
Will you remark further, ma'am?

REP. HEINRICH (101st):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker this
bill before us will protect pregnant women from the
use of the prescriptive, medical device of ultrasound
for purely entertainment purposes. The FDA classifies
an ultrasound machine as a class two prescriptive
device meaning it is only to be used upon order of a
medical professional. The first part of this bill
codifies that for Connecticut.

Second, the FDA, EPA, American College of
Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American
Institute of Ultrasonic Medicine, and several other
prominent and respected individuals and groups

including the Connecticut Radiological Society warn us that the ultrasound procedure is not without risk and that exposure to ultrasound should be for as little time as medically necessary. The second part of the bill addresses this point. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote favorably on this proposed legislation.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark? Will you remark further on the bill that is before us? Representative Reed you have the floor.

REP. REED (102nd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just wanted to tell a little story about a problem with one of these boutiques -- the potential of this coming to Connecticut. I received information from a physician who said a patient of hers came to her in a panic having visited one of these boutiques for an entertainment ultrasound where a stray comment was made that there might be something wrong. The woman in a panic called her physician and had yet another ultrasound. Two are recommended, she ended up with four. And this is the kind of situation that can happen if were to allow this to happen in Connecticut.

So I rise in support of this bill. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further? Representative Widlitz, you have the floor.

REP. WIDLITZ (98th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise in very strong support of this bill. I think this may be one of the most important things we do this session. I just want to emphasize that we had very prominent doctors from Yale testify in support of this bill; Dr. Edward Funai and Dr. Joshua Capel. Dr. Capel is actually the President of the American Institute of Ultrasound Medicine and these doctors took the time to emphasize the importance of this bill for the safety of children in the future and I urge my colleagues to support it. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Thank you, Representative. Representative O'Neill, you have the floor.

REP. O'NEILL (69th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. If I may a question through you to the proponent of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Representative Heinrich, prepare yourself for questioning. Representative O'Neill, please frame your question.

REP. O'NEILL (69th):

In looking at the text of the bill I see that there is a prohibition, however I do not see that there is any consequence for anyone violating that prohibition. So through you Madam Speaker, is there some place in the statutes regarding public health -- matters -- a general penalty or consequence for violating a public health statute? Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Representative Heinrich.

REP. HEINRICH (101st):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I thank the good gentleman for his question. I think it's an important one. There are many avenues for medical professionals and nonmedical professionals to be brought before medical boards if they are not medical professionals for practicing medicine without a license, or for medical professionals to have sanctions against them. And that -- those are the statutes that would apply in the case of this legislation. Thank you, Madam

Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Representative O'Neill.

REP. O'NEILL (69th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I heard mention before of something called -- related to the word boutique, some kind of a place where the ultrasounds would be done. Are -- the reference to boutiques is that referring to some kind of a -- a clinic that is licensed by the State of Connecticut? Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Representative Heinrich.

REP. HEINRICH (101st):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Through you, Madam Speaker the reference to boutique is actually not referencing licensed facilities. It's referencing facilities that are performing ultrasounds on pregnant women. They are not licensed by the state and they are generally not performing them under order of a physician and they are performing them for entertainment purposes only, which is -- through the FDA, not an approved use for the ultrasound machine. Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Representative O'Neill.

REP. O'NEILL (69th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. So that if someone were to open such a facility in the State of Connecticut they would be doing so without getting a license from the state and if they performed a -- an ultrasound without -- let's say they're an ultrasound pursuant to a prescription from a healthcare professional, would they be in violation of the law because they don't have a license to operate an ultrasound facility in the State of Connecticut. Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Representative Heinrich.

REP. HEINRICH (101st):

Through you, Madam speaker. It is my understanding that with the prescriptive order and for medical or diagnostic purpose they would not be in violation of this if it becomes law. Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Representative O'Neill.

REP. O'NEILL (69th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. So that there -- there might be some circumstances under which a boutique could claim that it has a reason in effect to exist to be open. Through you, Madam Speaker. Is that correct?

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Representative Heinrich.

REP. HEINRICH (101st):

Madam Speaker, through you, I apologize could you rephrase that for me? I wasn't super clear. Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Representative O'Neill.

REP. O'NEILL (69th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Based on the answer to the previous question it appears that there may be certain circumstances under which someone could perform an ultrasound if the facility or the individual who is operating the equipment -- although perhaps that should be a separate question. But if the facility is not licensed by the State of Connecticut it is still possible that they could be legitimately and legally performing an ultrasound because they received a -- an order -- the had a

prescription issued by a doctor which was presented to them by the patient I assume. And so that they could do an ultrasound legally even though they're not licensed. Is that correct? Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Representative Heinrich.

REP. HEINRICH (101st):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes. That is my understanding. Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Representative O'Neill.

REP. O'NEILL (69th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And certainly under the terms once this bill becomes law if they do this -- do an ultrasound and they are not licensed and they do an ultrasound without a prescription they are clearly violating the terms of this statute. Is that correct? Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Representative Heinrich.

REP. HEINRICH (101st):

Through you, Madam Speaker. That is correct.

REP. O'Neill (69th):

And if they were to do that -- if they are not licensed by the State of Connecticut, there is no license for the Connecticut State Health Department for example to revoke. Is that correct? Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Representative Heinrich.

REP. HEINRICH (101st):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Through you. That is correct.

And -- thank you, Madam Speaker. But if they have a -- so that if they perform one of these with a prescription but they don't have a license are they considered to be carrying out medical procedures or practicing medicine without a license? Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Representative Heinrich.

REP. HEINRICH (101st):

Through you, Madam Speaker. Let me -- let me make sure I understand. So you're asking if they have the prescription and they receive -- and they perform the ultrasound but they're not a licensed facility are they performing medicine without a license?

REP. O'NEILL (69th):

Through you -- through you Madam Speaker. That was the question. Yes.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Okay. There are many facilities in this state right now -- legitimate facilities, through you, Madam Speaker -- that perform ultrasounds and are not licensed facilities. And therefore, no I don't believe that they would be considered performing medicine without a license. Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Representative O'Neill.

REP. O'NEILL (69th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I certainly think that the -- it makes sense to -- to do the bill given the potential dangers of having ultrasounds but I guess I'm puzzled as to why people are allowed to set up shop as ultrasound facilities if they don't have license, they're not regulated, they're not inspected. No one really knows what they're doing, whether they're qualified to give correct readings, whether the equipment is properly maintained so as to be able to do a correct ultrasound.

And all of those things -- and I guess I think it's unfortunate that the bill doesn't go farther and require that these facilities be licensed and the people who operate the equipment be trained. I hope that somewhere else in our statutes there is in fact a provision for that and that just we're not talking about it because it's already settled and well-established.

But if there is not it seems to me that given the dangers that have been outlined here today that ultrasound equipment should not be allowed any more than x-ray machines should be allowed to be used -- in the hands of untrained, unlicensed people who just sort of set up shop someplace on a street corner and start doing ultrasounds. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Thank you. Representative Giegler, you have the floor, ma'am.

REP. GIEGLER (138th):

Thank you, Madam Chair. This bill is an important bill as it protects the unborn from the potential medical harm in a facility that's not licensed by the Department of Public Health. During our Committee hearings we addressed the concerns that

were put forth by the Department so this bill is now where it should be and I urge your adoption. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark? Will you remark further on the bill that is before us? Will you remark further? If not, staff and guests please come to the well. Members take your seats. The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll call. Members to the chamber. The House is voting by roll call. Members to the chamber please.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? All the members please check the board and make sure your votes are properly cast. Have all the members have voted. The machine will be locked and the Clerk will please take a tally. Will the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

House Bill 5635

Total number voting 139

Necessary for passage 70

Those voting Yea	138
Those voting Nay	1
Absent and not voting	12

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Bill is passed.

Will the Clerk please call calendar 294.

CLERK:

On page nine, calendar 294 substitute for House
Bill number 6127, an act concerning utility deposits
for business customers, favorable report of the
Committee on Energy and Technology.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Nardello.

REP. NARDELLO (89th):

I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's
favorable report and passage of the bill.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Request for acceptance of the Committee's
favorable report in passage of the bill. Will you
remark?

REP. NARDELLO (89th):

Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a very
simple bill that requires the Department of Public
Utility Control to initiate a docket to examine the

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important thing. And other towns will be impacted eventually, too.

REP. RITTER: Thank you, Senator. Are there further questions? Thank you very much.

SENATOR DOYLE: Thank you. You do have the written testimony but I read it.

REP. RITTER: Yes, we do.

SENATOR DOYLE: Thank you.

REP. RITTER: Our next speaker, and we have moved to House Bill Number 5635, and our next speaker will be Dr. Ed Funai, followed by Jillian Gilchrest.

EDMUND FUNAI: Thank you, Madam Chair and members of the Committee. I'm appearing before you in support of House Bill Number 5635 An Act Concerning The Administration Of Ultrasound Procedures.

I'm Edmund Funai. I'm testifying before you as a concerned citizen as well as an informed professional. By way of background, I'm an Associate Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Science at the Yale School of Medicine, and am the Chief of Obstetrics at Yale-New Haven Hospital. Most of the work I do is related to diagnosing and treating problems in unborn babies. I've been a resident of Shelton for the past seven years.

I, as well as the professional bodies of which I am a member, the American Institute of Ultrasound In Medicine and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, have been concerned about the profusion of storefront entertainment ultrasound facilities for a number of years. The issue in question that I

believe this bill is addressing is the use of medical equipment to generate a keepsake image of the growing fetus.

While medical use of appropriate levels of ultrasound to diagnose fetal conditions is considered safe, please note that ultrasound is a form of energy used in many industries and medicine. At somewhat higher exposure levels given daily for weeks at a time, ultrasound is used to speed the healing of bone fractures. At much higher levels, ultrasound produces a heating effect in tissue, which is useful in treating sprains. At very high levels, ultrasound is used to shatter kidney stones.

I wish to bring your attention to the following. The FDA has expressed concern about this misuse of diagnostic ultrasound equipment in this way, that is for keepsake ultrasound.

The FDA has stated that persons who promote, sell, or lease ultrasound equipment for making keepsake fetal videos should know that the FDA views this as an unapproved use of a medical device.

In addition, those who subject individuals to ultrasound exposure using a diagnostic ultrasound device, a prescription device, without a physician's order may be in violation of state or local laws or regulations using a prescription medical device.

To date, the FDA has allowed enforcement to be at the local level.

I also wish to point out that non-medical ultrasonography may falsely reassure women. Even though centers that perform non-medical ultrasonography and create keepsake photographs and videos of the fetus may offer disclaimers about the limitations of their product.

Customers may interpret an aesthetically pleasing image or entertaining video as evidence of fetal health and appropriate development.

Please also note that abnormalities may be detected in settings that are not prepared to discuss and provide follow up care for concerning findings. Without the ready availability of appropriate prenatal healthcare professionals, customers at sites for non-medical ultrasonography may be left without necessary support information and follow up for concerning findings.

The use of ultrasound to create keepsake images or for entertainment purposes in no way promotes the health of the citizens of Connecticut or the public good. I would urge you to limit the use of such equipment and technology to a physician's prescription only. Thank you for your attention.

REP. RITTER: Thank you for your testimony. Are there questions from the Committee?
Representative Widlitz.

REP. WIDLITZ: Thank you, Doctor, very much for coming to our hearing. You really have outlined the medical scientific information that clarifies the issue for us.

You, in your testimony, you have a statement that at very high levels, ultrasound is used to shatter kidney stones. When there is a non-medical use of ultrasound, which is popping up in some of our communities just to have a fetal picture as the progression goes along, are the machines that are used regulated in any way by the Department of Public Health as they would be in a medical situation?

EDMUND FUNAI: Well, I will point out that those machines that take fetal images are not the same types of machines that would be used for kidney stones.

But the FDA, to answer your question, the FDA sees the fetal ultrasound equipment or the imaging equipment, to be prescription medical devices, and can easily be subject to local regulation. I don't think that's currently the case in Connecticut, hence your act, which I appreciate.

REP. WIDLITZ: As a follow up, in a medical situation, a calibration of the machine, are they checked so that they are, who checks those so that they are, the ultrasound is at a safe level for medical purposes?

EDMUND FUNAI: Most of this imaging takes place in a state licensed facility, and there's departments of medical engineering. The machines, even the ones used for fetal imaging, have a wide range of either what's called a mechanical index or thermal index, the amount of energy they can use to produce a picture.

And it would be up to the medical engineering department to make sure that those machines are within those tolerances, and also an educated sonographer, under the guidance of a physician, who would then know what appropriate and safe levels of energy would be.

Right now we're not seeing damage from fetal imaging to unborn babies, but it certainly is a possibility, if very high levels are used to prolong (inaudible).

REP. WIDLITZ: So for the businesses that are popping up that are not regulated by the

Department of Health, we really don't know about the maintenance on the machines, the calibration, and who is actually administering the ultrasound, whether it's a person who was trained or a person who was not trained in the absence of any kind of regulation by our state. Is that, would you say that's correct?

EDMUND FUNAI: That's absolutely correct.

REP. WIDLITZ: Thank you very much for appearing today. I think this is an issue that I had absolutely no knowledge of until it popped up in my community, and I was frankly very shocked that anyone would do a procedure to a fetus that is not medically prescribed.

Because if you're, many people here may remember, some may not, that in the 50s shoe stores used to have a procedure where you could actually see by fluoroscope, I believe, which is a form of an x-ray, that you could put your feet in the shoes and put your feet under this machine, and actually see the x-rays of your toes and if the shoe fit properly.

Well, that was fun, so a lot of people just did it over and over and over without any idea that in the future there would be evidence that the accumulative reflex of, effects rather, of x-ray might be damaging.

This certainly could turn out to be the same situation and it's totally unnecessary. It's a frivolous procedure, so I really sincerely appreciate your being here and shedding some light on this. Thank you.

EDMUND FUNAI: Thank you very much for having me.

REP. RITTER: Representative Heinrich.

REP. HEINRICH: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you very much for your testimony. It was very well put. Just a few clarifications.

I have a few pages that I just got off the Internet from some of the places here in the state that do this kind of elective entertainment ultrasound for the fetuses, and one of the providers says, we're a provider of limited diagnostic ultrasounds and a full-service prenatal imaging center offering elective prenatal ultrasounds.

Limited diagnostic ultrasounds. Can you help me understand, as a medical professional who works with pregnant women, if a woman were to go in and say, and be told that their baby is fine in a limited way, do you think that they would leave there thinking everything's fine, or do you think they would follow up medically?

Because it sounds like these places are telling them from the pictures, they're diagnosing, or at least partially diagnosing as here, limited diagnosis, and I think, isn't there a minimum amount of education you have to have in order to diagnose an ultrasound and tell somebody whether or not a fetus is healthy?

EDMUND FUNAI: It's an excellent point. I mean, I've had 12 years of training just in doing this, and one of the concerns that I hope to highlight is that just because in one of these entertainment ultrasounds the patient or the family may see a pretty and cute picture of the baby's face, that huge relief may be that the baby's been healthy.

And as we know, cardiac disease or structural heart disease is extraordinarily common in unborn kids and you wouldn't want a patient to assume that just because the baby's face looks

normal, that everything else was okay and then forego a more comprehensive examination as what's recommended during the pregnancy.

REP. HEINRICH: I know the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Institute of Ultrasound and Medicine, the FDA, they've all given us warnings about these non-medical uses of ultrasounds for viewing fetuses, and I know that you mentioned that there is increased risk associated with ultrasound for higher levels of exposure.

But is there not also risk for longer exposure, even at the longer, if you expose longer than necessary?

EDMUND FUNAI: The concept that some of these bodies put forth is something called ALARA, or as low as reasonably achievable.

So we think that in standard exposures, ultrasound is fairly safe, but you still want to use it at the lowest possible amount of power and for the shortest period of time as you possibly can.

For the excellent point that was made earlier about fluoroscopy. We think it's all pretty safe, but there's still no guarantee 20 years from now we'll realize that, well maybe there's a critical period of time where we shouldn't be exposing babies to ultrasound, especially higher dose ultrasound. That's the exact (inaudible).

REP. HEINRICH: Yeah, and some of these places are saying come here because at the doctor's office you're only going to get a 2D or a 3D and we now have the latest 4D. Can you tell us what that means, and also what it would be used for if it was medically necessary, and how much

longer the exposure would be if you're looking for the baby to yawn, cry, swallow, blink, perform intricate finger movements, etc.

EDMUND FUNAI: Two-dimensional imaging is what you would ordinarily see, 3D is adding that third dimension depth, and 4D is just adding the element of time. So rather than seeing the baby in a static picture, you can actually see it in three-dimension as it moves.

That technology is useful in a limited role to take a look at say, twins that are conjoined, to see where they actually might be fused together, or a baby with a severe cleft of the lip or face that you can take that picture. It allows the surgical care for the baby, to get a good mental image of what to expect when the baby's born.

And also, it's very instructive for the family so that you could show them these pictures and they're well prepared for their baby once it's born. But it's not something that really should be used frivolously.

REP. HEINRICH: Okay. Thank you, Madam Chair, and thank you very much for your testimony.

REP. RITTER: Representative, Senator Prague.

SENATOR PRAGUE: Thank you very much, Madam Chairman. I find this actually frightening, that a pregnant woman would go for an ultrasound to one of these, it could be anywhere with unlicensed people. The equipment these places use, are they, is it the same equipment that you use at the hospital?

EDMUND FUNAI: It possibly might be, but I think the big question, and points out the urgency for this bill is, who knows? It's unregulated. It

could be 20-year-old equipment. It may present an electrical hazard to the patient or the person operating it. There's no quality control involved in this because it's in a unlicensed facility by non-licensed personnel.

SENATOR PRAGUE: How long have these places been around doing this?

EDMUND FUNAI: They started popping up around the country about 10 years ago, I'm not certain, but it's relatively recently in Connecticut where it sprung up, I believe.

SENATOR PRAGUE: I'm frankly surprised that the Health Department hasn't stopped them from operating. But anyhow, thank you very much for coming in to testify.

EDMUND FUNAI: It's been my honor to be here. Thank you.

REP. RITTER: Thank you. Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you for your testimony, and also thank you to Representative Heinrich and Widlitz for bringing this bill forward, as well as Representative Reed.

I think this is absolutely outrageous, and I was just wanting to see if you had any sense of the, I mean, I know these aren't, there's no registration required. Do you have any sense of the number of places that could be affected, where this is occurring in Connecticut?

EDMUND FUNAI: I'm aware as I believe two on the shoreline, but again, without any form of regulation or centralization, you really have to use Google to see where it comes up, so it's just the best guess.

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REP. LESSER: And as well, I know again, we're not, there haven't been any studies that have shown health problems resulting from sonograms, but the FDA and others have issued warnings.

My understanding in terms of the possible health effects of this procedure produces heat, and do you have a general sense of what kind of health complications could result to either the mother or the fetus because of an excess of heat, regardless of the source.

EDMUND FUNAI: Even the equipment that I use in my practice, if it was at its highest setting using something called Doppler, which shows blood flow and color, it could physically heat the tissue of the baby, especially tissue adjacent to bone and the fetal brain is right next to the largest bone in the body, so there's that potential risk of the warming or creating bubbles within the brain.

That's an extreme case, of course, but you'd want trained educated professionals to be doing this, I would think.

REP. LESSER: Well, thank you very much for your answers and for your testimony.

EDMUND FUNAI: Thank you for your question.

REP. RITTER: Senator DeBicella.

SENATOR DEBICELLA: Thank you, Madam Chairman. Ed, thanks for coming up and testifying today. I don't have kids myself, so I don't know the answer to this question, probably most other people do.

But if you go to a doctor, a licensed doctor and you're having these ultrasounds done in the

course of your pregnancy of health reasons, can you get a picture from them? Will they actually give you a photo of your fetus if you want to, to keep?

EDMUND FUNAI: I think it's done routinely. It certainly is in my practice. I mean, we need to medically evaluate the shape and structure of the face, for example, which is what most patients are interested in, because abnormalities in the shape or structure of the face can give you a clue to certain syndromes, genetically.

So when we're doing that, it really is only an additional two seconds to snap an image and print a picture as a keepsake, and we do that as a courtesy, but it's certainly not the focus of something that's a very serious medical exam.

SENATOR DEBICELLA: No, absolutely. It just seems odd to me that such a business even exists if you can get this from your medical professional in the course of the health and wellness of the pregnancy, so, I didn't even know these things existed, so thank you for bringing it to our attention.

EDMUND FUNAI: I think part of the reason is, part of what they promote is, you can get a very long video of the baby moving or a bound leather edition with you know, 20 pictures in it to share with your family, and obviously, that's not the focus of the medical profession.

SENATOR DEBICELLA: Well, thank you for testifying today and thank you, Madam Chairman.

REP. RITTER: Thank you. I had a follow up question. So many of my questions have already

been asked and answered, so, this has to do with the machine itself and the maintenance.

In the normal course of your practice, am I correct? There was a suggested maintenance routine?

EDMUND FUNAI: Most machines are kept under service contract. They're inspected once or twice a year by a certified medical engineer. But perhaps I'm not understanding your question fully, but it's not just the care and maintenance of the machine, but it's also the skill and the setting of the person performing the exam, and then being unsupervised if they're a non-physician.

REP. RITTER: That was sort of where I was going with this, but before that, I also just had a question about the consequences of non-maintenance or not adhering to a normal schedule.

You can correct me if I'm wrong, but probably one of several things can happen to these machines that would require maintenance. One might be, you can't turn it on. I can understand that, and that's probably not too dangerous a machine for the situation that we're talking about, if it can't be used.

But am I correct, there are other calibrations and measurements associated with using the machine that vary, and would require some form of regular inspection?

EDMUND FUNAI: That's absolutely correct and my concern, especially when something like this is being done entirely for profit without medical benefit, is that it might be some older equipment, and one of the more commonplaces

I've seen wear and tear of the machine is the probes themselves.

The rubber or plastic housing that cover the probe or where the electrical wiring goes into the probe is subject to stress as you move the probe around. And when you're dealing solely for profit I'd be concerned that you're going to just defer maintenance, which puts both the patient and the person operating in the room, the machine rather, at risk for electric shock as well.

A probe can run \$7,000 to \$15,000, so you can imagine that there would be quite an incentive not to replace them too quickly.

REP. RITTER: I want to make sure I heard that correctly. Seven to fifteen thousand?

EDMUND FUNAI: Just for the probe. That's not for the machine itself. They're probably six figure investments being made by the people that are going into this business to get up and running.

REP. RITTER: And the inspection routines itself or the maintenance contracts, do you have any clue of what one might reasonably expect to be paying for that?

EDMUND FUNAI: A maintenance contract generally runs \$20,000 to \$30,000 a year. An expensive service to provide.

REP. RITTER: I will freely admit, I'm somewhat astounded by that. Thank you. Is there anything else you'd like to add about, along this line, about the consequences of non-maintenance or improper measurement or delivery of it because the machine is not maintained correctly?

EDMUND FUNAI: I think that when you do these things outside of regulated facilities, you are, and by non-licensed people it's just a great unknown. And if there's profit involved, I'm worried about the risk of the actual equipment causing harm, a false reassurance that may be given to families, and the mistakes that may be made where somebody who's only interested in providing a keepsake image may gloss over the fact that they see a structural abnormality in the baby.

It's just, I think, doing this for the wrong motives, quite frankly.

REP. RITTER: Thank you for your candor.
Representative Nardello.

REP. NARDELLO: Can you tell me if the Department of Public Health either licenses or inspects your equipment or any ultrasound equipment?

EDMUND FUNAI: That's a great question. I don't know. I think it's part of a hospital's operating certificate, they're going to inspect medical engineering, look at maintenance agreements, look at the inspections that are taking place.

But to actually come and inspect the equipment directly? No, I think they probably, and I'm guessing, look at the processes to make sure that we do so.

REP. NARDELLO: But are they licensed?

EDMUND FUNAI: Are they licensed by the state, the machines?

REP. NARDELLO: Is there a license issued to operate the equipment?

EDMUND FUNAI: At present I believe no. I think that's part of the focus of the bill.

REP. NARDELLO: The reason I ask this is, x-ray equipment is treated as such, and no matter where the x-ray equipment is, it has to be inspected, generally, and it has to be, you know, there's a registration certificate.

EDMUND FUNAI: I think that's because that's ionizing radiation with a clear risk of cancer if improperly used. That was one of the first things to require a license, but I'm speculating.

REP. NARDELLO: Thank you.

REP. RITTER: Representative Esty.

REP. ESTY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I had a quick question. Does ultrasound equipment currently fall under a certificate of need requirement in the State of Connecticut? Do you know?

EDMUND FUNAI: It depends on the total purchase. I think the cutoff is a million dollars, but one machine, especially the higher end is in the range of \$150,000 to \$180,000.

So if a hospital would purchase one it wouldn't fall under a seal in process.

REP. ESTY: Okay, because we were just trying to think a little bit how are they getting a hold of these machines if there is a CON involved? It would seem like they --

EDMUND FUNAI: I don't think they are.

REP. ESTY: They're below that threshold.

EDMUND FUNAI: They might be, you could buy some of this equipment, believe it or not, on EBay right now.

REP. ESTY: Is there a market for replacement parts? I mean, I really wonder what's happening with this.

EDMUND FUNAI: The probes?

REP. ESTY: Yeah.

EDMUND FUNAI: Certainly you can buy many on EBay. That's quite a business.

REP. ESTY: A little frightening.

EDMUND FUNAI: They break over time and as you heard me say, they're very expensive. They don't drop well, I can tell you that.

REP. ESTY: I would imagine not. And if I may, one further question. As part of maintenance, do ultrasound, does the ultrasound equipment operate in such a way that if it's not properly maintained, you might have difficulty ensuring that the level of intensity that's being delivered is what you intend to be delivered?

EDMUND FUNAI: That's one of the primary concerns.

REP. ESTY: Okay.

EDMUND FUNAI: And these are very sophisticated computer chips that are inside these machines, so you need somebody that's specifically trained on how to calibrate them, check them, and also visually inspect the integrity of the electrical connection.

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REP. ESTY: All right. Thank you. That was my concern that it might actually be delivering a very different dosage than --

EDMUND FUNAI: What you think.

REP. ESTY: -- what the machine might say.

EDMUND FUNAI: Correct.

REP. ESTY: If it's not maintained. Okay, thank you very much. I appreciate your response.

REP. RITTER: Further questions from the Committee? Thank you very much for your testimony.

EDMUND FUNAI: Thank you for having me.

REP. RITTER: Our next speaker will be Jillian Gilchrest, and she will be followed by Dennis Johnson.

JILLIAN GILCHREST: Good afternoon, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Jillian Gilchrest, and I'm the Executive Director of NARAL Pro-Choice Connecticut, a statewide political advocacy nonprofit whose mission is to guarantee every woman the right to make personal decisions regarding the full range of reproductive choices, including preventing unintended pregnancy, bearing healthy children and choosing legal abortion.

I am here this afternoon in support of House Bill Number 5635 An Act Concerning The Administration Of Ultrasound Procedures, which would eliminate the administration of ultrasound procedures by non-medical commercial operations.

As both an advocate for women who choose to bear healthy children, and an expectant mother, I'm extremely concerned about the health and safety of women and unborn babies who receive keepsake ultrasound portraits and videos from commercial businesses.

A variety of respected medical and advocacy organizations also expressed concerns discouraging the non-medical use of ultrasound, including the federal Food and Drug Administration, the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the March of Dimes and the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine, citing the qualification of providers, inaccuracy of findings, and increased exposure to ultrasound technology amongst their top reasons for opposition.

As a pregnant woman, you tend to receive quite a bit of attention, and if you decide to shop at maternity stores or register for baby gifts, you receive free giveaways and magazines.

In most if not all of these free giveaways and magazines, 3D, 4D ultrasound photos and videos are marketed to expectant moms. I have attached one of the ads from the magazine Pregnancy and Newborns to this testimony for your review, and have also brought the magazine in and would be more than willing to share that with the Committee.

By simply Googling the words 3D ultrasound and Connecticut, I found three commercial 3D, 4D ultrasound locations in Connecticut, A Tiny Perspective in Glastonbury, What's Kicking in Guilford, and a Stork Studio in Orange.

On the websites, as with the ad I attached for you, there is little to no mention of potential health concerns, although you might notice a

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seal that says, United Imaging Partners. I don't know if all expectant mothers would notice this seal, but if they were concerned with the safety of this procedure, they would certainly have their worries resolved by this seal of approval.

The United Imaging Partners seal you can trust prides itself on meeting strict guidelines. When you click on the seal to find out more, the reassurance is misleading and provides women with misinformation.

In order for a facility to be certified to receive the United Imaging Partner seal, they must have the finest ultrasound equipment. But according to the FDA and the doctor you just heard from, it's not the equipment that is a concern, it's how practitioners operate the equipment that puts the unborn baby at risk.

If a woman decided to click on the frequently asked questions portion of a website, her fears would once again be falsely reassured by an answer to the question, is it safe? Are there risks to me or my baby, that reads, extensive studies over 30 years have found that ultrasound has not been shown to cause any harm to mother or baby. Routine scanning of all pregnancies is now normal throughout the United States.

What this warning fails to mention is that leading medical organizations discourage non-medical use, and that the reason studies haven't been able to show definitive long-term effects of ultrasound is because it is ethically wrong to conduct testing on unborn babies.

A few studies do suggest exposure to ultrasound during pregnancy may have an effect on human

development, such as delayed speech in children.

I think most expectant mothers are well intentioned, abstaining from foods they have been instructed to avoid, drinking no more than the allotted amount of caffeine, following the many recommendations for a healthy pregnancy. And yet when it comes to ultrasounds, there is little to no mention of risk.

According to the FDA's Office of Compliance, the FDA regulates devices, but the qualifications and behavior of technicians and physicians would be regulated by the state.

I thank the Committee for introducing House Bill Number 5635. We owe the women of Connecticut who choose to bear children the right to make informed and healthy decisions. Thank you.

REP. RITTER: Thank you. Are there questions from the Committee? Representative Heinrich.

REP. HEINRICH: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Jillian, for your testimony. I'd like to highlight and give you a chance to maybe expand upon one of the last things you said, which was the FDA regulates the devices, but they leave it to the states to regulate the quality and behavior of the technicians and physicians.

JILLIAN GILCHREST: In the research I had done, that's in all the research, the FDA kept saying that they were only responsible for regulating the machines themselves, but had no regulation over who, you know, what would happen once the machines are out, so that is left up to the states.

REP. HEINRICH: Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

REP. RITTER: Excuse me. Further questions from the Committee? Senator Debicella.

SENATOR DEBICELLA: Thank you, Madam Chairman, and thank you, Jillian for coming out today. Two questions for you. One is, I'm looking at your testimony and this one 4D locator seems to have locations nationwide. Have we seen, I mean, this is an obviously a relatively new phenomenon.

Have we seen how other states have dealt with this? Do they have their public health departments regulate it? Do they ban it? Do we have any knowledge of that?

JILLIAN GILCHREST: I am unsure at this point. I could find, I could look that up and submit that to you but I am unsure.

SENATOR DEBICELLA: It would be useful. It would be useful to say just because I'm curious because I never even heard of this before, and you know, they seem to be doing this all over the U.S.

And the other question I have is, in hearing the testimony from Dr. Funai and your testimony today, one of the things I'm wondering about is, the bill as it's written says, it shouldn't be done in a non-licensed facility.

But hearing that it's not the equipment and it's more the people, I'm wondering if it should, if the bill should be not licensed personnel, because the issue might not be the equipment. The issue might actually be the people themselves aren't nurses, these aren't properly trained medical professionals doing this, they could cause real harm.

And I'm not sure if that's the right way to go or not. I'm just kind of thinking as I'm hearing the testimony and wanted to get your reaction to that.

JILLIAN GILCHREST: I mean, I know that again, yeah, well, the doctor did say since these facilities aren't regulated, they might have old machinery, so it could be old machinery, and it also then is the person operating the machinery.

SENATOR DEBICELLA: Thank you. Just thinking out loud as I'm learning about this, but thank you for your testimony and advocacy for this today, and thank you, Madam Chairman.

REP. RITTER: Further questions from the Committee? Representative Heinrich.

REP. HEINRICH: I apologize for jumping in, Madam Chair, but I did want to just make a quick clarification on your out-of-the box thinking because I appreciate the ideas, and I think that could definitely be a portion of the bill.

But as we have been hearing, it is a combination of equipment, who's doing it, and also whether or not it's medically necessary by prescription. This is a prescriptive medical device. Thank you, Madam Chair.

REP. RITTER: Thank you. Anything else from the Committee? Thank you very much.

JILLIAN GILCHREST: Thank you.

REP. RITTER: Our next speaker will be Dennis Johnson, followed by Dr. Alan Kaye.

DENNIS JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee. My

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name is Dennis Johnson. I am the Director of Health for the Town of Guilford.

Last fall our office received an inquiry from a resident regarding the opening of a local ultrasound business. Upon investigation, I discovered that the business is part of a growing trend across the country aimed primarily at expectant parents.

These businesses sometimes known by the commercial franchise names of Fetal Photos or Tiny Perspectives, Sneak Previews or Womb With a View, are not part of a licensed medical facility, but rather private, commercial operations commonly referred to as ultrasound boutiques.

They are classified as entertainment ultrasounds and are prohibited from giving out medical or diagnostic information. Their main service is to produce for expectant parents, non-medical or entertainment fetal images created by two, three or four dimensional ultrasound imaging equipment.

Conventional ultrasounds produce two-dimensional grainy black and white photos, which expectant parents take away from their obstetrician's office.

Ultrasound boutiques now offer 3D images and even movie images of the child. The high-tech ultrasound machines utilized by these boutiques are capable of producing Doppler imaging so clear that the fetus can be observed yawning, thumb sucking or swallowing. These images are often transferred onto DVD or VHS format to create digital keepsake scans.

Currently, ultrasound technicians or sonographers in Connecticut that operate

ultrasound equipment independent of licensed medical facilities are not required to be licensed or even credentialed by the State Health Department. There are no minimum educational requirements needed to perform the scan.

However, ultrasound sonographers that work in a physician's office are required to be board certified, because here, an ultrasound is a prescriptive procedure.

The FDA has issued warnings about entertainment ultrasounds, although there is no strong evidence that they are harmful, there is no evidence that they are not harmful. Several studies have revealed possible developmental links to excessive use such as delayed speech or a neurological development.

The FDA has said, although there is no evidence that these physical effects can harm the fetus, public health experts, clinician and industry agree that casual exposure to ultrasound, especially during pregnancy, should be avoided, And they are also worried about how a commercial scanner would deal with finding a medical abnormality in the baby.

Ultrasonic fetal scanning from a medical standpoint generally is considered safe if properly used when information is needed about a pregnancy.

Still, ultrasound is a form of energy and even at low levels, laboratory studies have shown it to produce physical effect in tissue, such as jarring vibrations and a rise in temperature.

Although there is no evidence that these physical effects can harm a fetus, the FDA said, the fact that these effects exist mean

that prenatal ultrasound cannot be considered completely innocuous.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has made strong recommendations against commercial ultrasound movies, and states that mothers leave falsely reassured and then miss their scheduled ultrasounds with their doctor, says ultrasound expert Jacques Abramowicz at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago.

He says that this has resulted in some serious birth abnormalities going undetected in the womb. Obstetricians use ultrasound at a very low power level to check the size, location, number and age of fetuses, the presence of some types of birth defects or fetal movement, breathing and heartbeat.

When ultrasound is used by a qualified clinician to check for this kind of information, the FDA says the medical benefit far outweighs any risk. As more ultrasound technologies become available, greater numbers of expectant mothers and their families are requesting keepsake videos.

I'll just summarize here. The FDA and the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine, which also strongly discourages the non-medical use of ultrasound, have concerns that women are being wrongly reassured by commercial sonograms. Women may misinterpret the studio ultrasound as a medical examination, thus giving them a false sense of security. Inaccurate findings by the sonographer may also cause them to undergo unnecessary follow up tests.

I'm aware that the sponsors of the bill are offering new, substitute language that will require fetal ultrasound procedures only be

administered to a patient when deemed medically necessary by, and ordered by a medical professional.

By permitting ultrasounds only through a prescriptive order or by a medical professional, you will ensure that pregnant women will receive professional care that contributes to their health and to the health of their babies.

Thus, ultrasound should be used in a prudent manner to provide medical benefits to a patient. I support the approach of this bill and urge the Committee to adopt it. Thank you.

REP. RITTER: Thank you. Questions from the Committee? Representative Widlitz.

REP. WIDLITZ: Dennis, thank you so much for coming today. This is really the hero of the day and Guilford is very proud to have you as our health director because through Dennis' office, this is the issue that came forward and it speaks volumes about keeping the lines of communication open with our local officials who deal with these issues.

And I think you made your final point about this is a prescriptive, medical issue. It's not, I don't think anyone who has ever gone through a pregnancy would ever consider it to be entertaining and having those types of businesses pop up around pregnancy is a medical serious procedure, which, condition which hopefully ends in the birth of a very healthy child, and we certainly don't want to promote any activities that would put a fetus in harm's way of not becoming a healthy baby. So I really, I really applaud you.

But let me just ask you, when you visited the business in Guilford that you had the inquiry about, what was the reaction when you arrived? What kind of feedback did you get?

DENNIS JOHNSON: Well, they are not licensed by the State Health Department. As a matter of fact, the State Health Department does not even inspect these facilities because first of all, they don't have enough staff, and secondly, they are not supposed to be administering any medical procedures, so there's really no business for the state quality assurance division to be inspecting them.

But they will inspect based upon a complaint. The facilities assure that they're completely trained staff, that the procedure is completely harmless, and you know, they really do not want to be regulated in any way or form. It's all completely voluntary, self-regulation basically.

So they feel, you know, it's a franchise. It's a national franchises. There are large expenditures in equipment, but anybody with a bit of money and access to the Internet could buy them and set up a business.

I mean, some of the businesses have party rooms where parents, grandparents, can come in and actually watch videos, pre-birth videos of the fetus, you know, on a wide-screen TV, you know, for a fee.

The State Health Department does not allow them to do any diagnostic, any medical evaluation, including sexing the baby. However, some of these businesses, they do advertise that you can find the sex of your child. They won't tell you whether it's a male or female, but they will tell you whether you should decorate

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pat

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for blue or pink, so there's a way to get around that.

They feel that they're in business and they're in Connecticut to stay is their opinion.

REP. WIDLITZ: Well, we'll see about that. Thank you very much for coming. I really appreciate your being here because I know you took the whole day to be here, and I think it was well worthwhile.

DENNIS JOHNSON: It was enlightening. Thank you.

REP. RITTER: Further questions from the Committee? Thank you very much for coming.

DENNIS JOHNSON: You're welcome.

REP. RITTER: Our next speaker will be Dr. Alan Kaye and he will be followed by Linda Kowalski. This is neither Dr. Kaye nor Linda Kowalski.

DAVID BOOMER: Representing Dr. Kaye who was detained with patients at Bridgeport Hospital. Madam Chairman, I'm David Boomer with the Kowalski Group. We represent the Radiological Society of Connecticut, and quite simply we want to commend Representative Heinrich and Representative Widlitz for introducing this bill.

HB 5635

Our members were aghast when they were apprised of this and we're here today to tell you, you have the full support of the radiological community in trying to form a bill, to put a bill together that will stop the use of ultrasound for non-medical procedures.

So you have our statement for the record, and we'll be happy to work with you in the future on this.

REP. RITTER: Thank you very much, David. Are there questions? Representative Heinrich.

REP. HEINRICH: Thank you, Madam Chair, just a quick one. I was waiting for you to come up because I know you're the best person to answer this question.

With regard to Class 1, 2, and 3 medical devices, this falls under a Class 2 medical device. Is that correct?

DAVID BOOME: Yes.

REP. HEINRICH: Yes. And can you tell us what that means to be a Class 2 medical device?

DAVID BOOMER: It's basically the power of the equipment and the level of radiation. Ultrasound is a form of radiation. It's a very low intense form, but if I can, I can get you some bullet points from the Radiological Society that will show you clearly, you know, how those categories are delineated.

REP. HEINRICH: And the Class 2s are prescriptive only, right?

DAVID BOOMER: Yes. What we have found is that in talking with the Public Health Department, that they don't like the facilities, they don't like these ultrasounds, so that's why I think some of the discussion is good about possible other ways to frame this bill so that it can accomplish its purpose.

But again, from the radiological community, it is that a piece of equipment should not be used for non-medical purposes.

REP. HEINRICH: So do you feel that making it that fetal ultrasounds should only be done under a prescription from a medical professional, do you think that would take care of the problem?

DAVID BOOMER: I really do. That's probably 99 percent of it. We haven't talked to the Public Health Department yet, but I think that's a clean way to do this.

And then, if there's a violation of that, the Attorney General would have cause to file a civil suit and stop it.

REP. HEINRICH: Thank you very much. Thank you, Madam Chair.

REP. RITTER: Further questions from the Committee?

DAVID BOOMER: And the next speaker won't be here.

REP. RITTER: I got that.

DAVID BOOMER: Okay.

REP. RITTER: Thank you very much. Representative Widlitz.

REP. WIDLITZ: With your permission, Madam Chair, I'd just like to ask a question. There was written testimony submitted by Dr. Capell from Yale as well that we had packets for the Committee even though, I hope that's being distributed to the Committee because it was very, very complete. Thank you.

REP. RITTER: Thank you very much and we'll see that that happens. We're moving on. Our next bill for which we have a speaker is Senate Bill Number 980 An Act Concerning Certificates of Need. Our first speaker is Jean Morningstar, and she'll be followed by Terry Edelstein.

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**PUBLIC
HEALTH
PART 4
932 - 1237**

2009

Yale University

*School of Medicine
Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology
333 Cedar Street
P.O. Box 208063
New Haven, Connecticut 06520-8063*

*Campus address
339 Farnam Memorial Building
333 Cedar Street*

February 26, 2009

Rep. Pat Widlitz
Rep. Deborah Heinrich

Dear Reps. Widlitz and Heinrich:

I am writing to you regarding the proposed House Bill 5635 being considered in your hearing scheduled for Friday, Feb 27, 2009.

I am testifying before you as a concerned citizen as well as an informed professional. By way of background, I am an Associate Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences at Yale School of Medicine and am the Chief of Obstetrics at Yale-New Haven Hospital. Much of the work I do is related to diagnosing and treating problems in unborn babies. I have been a resident of Shelton for the past 7 years.

I, as well as the professional bodies of which I am a member (The American Institute of Ultrasound In Medicine and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists), have been concerned about the profusion of storefront entertainment ultrasound facilities for a number of years. The issue in question is the use of medical ultrasound equipment to create a keepsake image of the growing fetus.

While medical use of appropriate levels of ultrasound to diagnose fetal conditions is considered safe, please note that ultrasound is a form of energy used for many purposes in industry and medicine. At somewhat higher exposure levels, given daily for weeks at a time, ultrasound is used to speed the healing of bone fractures. At much higher exposure levels, ultrasound produces a heating effect in tissue, which is useful in treating sprains and pulled muscles. At very high levels, ultrasound is used to shatter kidney stones.

I wish to bring your attention to the following:

1. The FDA has expressed concern about this misuse of diagnostic ultrasound equipment in this way. The FDA has stated "Persons who promote, sell or lease ultrasound equipment for making

'keepsake' fetal videos should know that FDA views this as an unapproved use of a medical device. In addition, those who subject individuals to ultrasound exposure using a diagnostic ultrasound device (a prescription device) without a physician's order may be in violation of State or local laws or regulations regarding use of a prescription medical device." To date, the FDA has allowed enforcement to be at the local level.

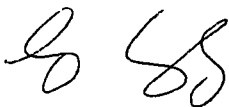
2. I concur with the AIUM assertion that "The use of either two-dimensional (2D) or three-dimensional (3D) ultrasound to only view the fetus, obtain a picture of the fetus or determine the fetal gender without a medical indication is inappropriate and contrary to responsible medical practice. Although there are no confirmed biological effects on patients caused by exposures from present diagnostic ultrasound instruments, the possibility exists that such biological effects may be identified in the future. Thus ultrasound should be used in a prudent manner to provide medical benefit to the patient.

3. Nonmedical ultrasonography may falsely reassure women. Even though centers that perform nonmedical ultrasonography and create keepsake photographs and videos of the fetus may offer disclaimers about the limitations of their product, customers may interpret an aesthetically pleasing image or entertaining video as evidence of fetal health and appropriate development.

4. Abnormalities may be detected in settings that are not prepared to discuss and provide follow-up for concerning findings. Without the ready availability of appropriate prenatal health care professionals, customers at sites for nonmedical ultrasonography may be left without necessary support, information, and follow-up for concerning findings.

The use of ultrasound to create "keepsake" images or for entertainment purposes in no way promotes the health of the citizens of Connecticut or the public good. I would urge you to limit the use of such equipment and technology to a physician's prescription only.

Sincerely,



Edmund F. Funai, MD
Associate Chair, Clinical Affairs
Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences

Co-Chief
Section of Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Associate Professor
Yale University School of Medicine

Chief of Obstetrics
Yale-New Haven Hospital

Testimony of Dennis Johnson, Director of Health, on February 27, 2009
Regarding proposed Bill no. 5635, "An Act Concerning the Administration of Fetal Ultrasound Procedures"

My name is Dennis Johnson I am the Director of Health for the Town of Guilford. Last fall our office received an inquiry from a resident regarding the opening of a local ultrasound business. Upon investigation I discovered that the business is part of a growing trend across the country aimed primarily at expectant parents. These businesses, sometimes known by the commercial franchise names of "Fetal Photos" "Tiny Perspectives" "Sneak Previews" "Womb with a View" are not part of a licensed medical facility but rather private-commercial operation commonly referred to as ultrasound boutiques. They are classified as entertainment ultrasounds and are prohibited from giving out medical or diagnostic information. Their main service is to produce, for expectant parents, non-medical or entertainment fetal images created by 2, 3 or 4-dimensional ultrasound imaging equipment. Conventional ultrasounds produce two dimensional grainy black and white photos which expectant parents take these away from their obstetrician's office. Ultrasound boutiques now offer 3D images, and even movie images of the child. The high-tech ultrasound machines utilized by these boutiques are capable of producing Doppler imaging so clear that the fetus can be observed yawning, thumb sucking or swallowing. These images are often transferred into DVD or VHS format to create digital keep-sake scans.

Currently, ultrasound technicians or sonographers in Connecticut that operate ultrasound equipment independent of licensed medical facilities are not required to be licensed or even credentialed by the State Health Department. There are no minimum educational requirements needed to perform the scan. However, ultrasound sonographers that work in a physician's office are required to be board certified because here, an ultra sound is a prescriptive procedure. This is

not to say, however, that independent sonographers have not had prior experience or board certification while working in a medical facility.

The FDA has issued warnings about entertainment ultra sounds. Although there is no strong evidence that they are harmful there is no evidence that they are not harmful. Several studies have revealed possible developmental links to excessive use such as delayed speech or neurological development.

The FDA has said: "Although there is no evidence that these physical effects can harm the fetus, public health experts, clinicians and industry agree that casual exposure to ultrasound, especially during pregnancy, should be avoided." And there are also worries about how a commercial scanner would deal with finding a medical abnormality in the baby.

Ultrasonic fetal scanning, from a medical standpoint, generally is considered safe if properly used when information is needed about a pregnancy. Still, ultrasound is a form of energy, and even at low levels, laboratory studies have shown it can produce physical effects in tissue, such as jarring vibrations and a rise in temperature. Although there is no evidence that these physical effects can harm a fetus, the FDA says the fact that these effects exist means that prenatal ultrasounds cannot be considered completely innocuous. The US Food and Drug Administration has made a strong recommendation against commercial ultrasound movies, and states that; "Mothers leave falsely reassured and then they miss their scheduled ultrasounds with their doctor," says ultrasound expert Jacques Abramowicz at Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, Illinois. He says that this has resulted in some serious birth abnormalities going undetected in the womb. Obstetricians use ultrasound at a very low power level to check the size, location, number, and age of fetuses, the presence of some types of birth defects, fetal

movement, breathing, and heartbeat. When ultrasound is used by a qualified clinician to check for this kind of information, the FDA says the medical benefit far outweighs any risk. As more advanced ultrasound technologies (usually using higher ultrasound intensities) become available, greater numbers of expectant mothers and their families are requesting fetal keepsake videos and portraits for souvenirs. Fetal keepsake videos are viewed as problems because there are no medical benefits derived from the exposure. Further, there is no control on how long a single imaging session will take or how many sessions will occur. The FDA notes that some video companies have been known to use the ultrasound machine on higher energy exposures for as long as an hour to get the pictures. The procedure should always be done at the lowest possible energy output and for the least amount of time. Exposure to ultrasound for longer than the time specified by the FDA for fetal monitoring could pose a potential risk to the health of the mother and her developing fetus.

Some companies make it clear that they are not providing diagnostic ultrasounds, but those that don't may wrongly give women the impression that their ultrasound examination will identify problems.

The FDA and the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM), which also strongly discourages the non-medical use of ultrasound, have concerns that women are being wrongly reassured by commercial sonograms. Women may misinterpret the studio ultrasound as a medical examination, thus giving them a false sense of security. Inaccurate findings by the sonographer may also cause them to undergo unnecessary follow-up tests.

I am aware that the sponsors of this bill are offering new, substitute language that will require fetal ultrasound procedures only be administered to a patient when deemed medically necessary

by and ordered by a medical professional. By permitting ultrasounds only through prescriptive order or by a medical professional you will ensure that pregnant women will receive professional care that contributes to their health and to the health of their babies. Thus ultrasound should be used in a prudent manner to provide medical benefit to the patient. I support the approach of this bill and urge the committee to adopt it.



RADIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF CONNECTICUT, INC.
A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF RADIOLOGY

Statement of the
Radiological Society of Connecticut
before the
Public Health Committee
in Support of HB 5635
February 27, 2009

Dr Alan Kage
represented by
David Boomer

Sen. Harris, Rep. Ritter and members of the committee:

The Radiological Society of Connecticut is pleased to support House Bill 5635, *An Act Concerning the Administration of Ultrasound Procedures.*

We are troubled by the proliferation of businesses that offer non-medical ultrasound for a fetal portraiture.

Ultrasound is a form of radiation. All forms of medical radiation must be used prudently. RSC's position is that, unless medically indicated (i.e., a prescription from a licensed professional for a clinical indication), examinations using any form of radiation should not be performed. Regardless of who pays, if a licensed professional does a procedure, the reasonable expectations of patients are that this is a medical procedure.

Our parent group, The American College of Radiology supports the FDA position that fetal ultrasound be performed only for medical purposes with a prescription from an appropriately licensed provider. They oppose the use of fetal ultrasound solely for entertainment videos or keepsake images.

We understand Reps. Heinrich, Widlitz and Reed have developed substitute language for the bill that provides procedures can occur if approved by a medical professional. We believe this is a good approach.

Using ultrasound for non-medical purposes is inappropriate. The RSC believe H.B. 5635 is the right way to rectify this issue. Thank you.



NARAL
Pro-Choice Connecticut

Public Health Committee
HB 5635, An Act Concerning the Administration of Ultrasound Procedures
 Testimony of Jillian Gilchrest, Executive Director
 NARAL Pro-Choice Connecticut
 February 27, 2009

Good morning Senator Harris, Representative Ritter, and members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Jillian Gilchrest and I am the executive director of NARAL Pro-Choice Connecticut, a statewide political advocacy non-profit whose mission is to guarantee every woman the right to make personal decisions regarding the full range of reproductive choices, including preventing unintended pregnancy, bearing healthy children, and choosing legal abortion.

I am here this morning in support of HB 5635, An Act Concerning the Administration of Ultrasound Procedures which would eliminate the administration of ultrasound procedures by nonmedical commercial operations. As both an advocate for women who choose to bear healthy children and an expectant mother, I am extremely concerned about the health and safety of women and unborn babies who receive keepsake ultrasound portraits and videos from commercial businesses.

A variety of respected medical and advocacy organizations also express concerns discouraging the nonmedical use of ultrasounds, including the Federal Food and Drug Administration, the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the March of Dimes, and the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine, citing the qualification of providers, inaccuracy of findings, and increased exposure to ultrasound technology amongst their top reasons for opposition.

As a pregnant woman, you tend to receive quite a bit of attention and if you decide to shop at maternity stores or register for baby gifts, you receive free giveaways and magazines. In most, if not all of these free giveaways and magazines, 3D/4D ultrasound photos and videos are marketed to expectant moms. I have attached one of the ads from the magazine, *Pregnancy & Newborn* to this testimony for your review and have also brought the magazine in and would be more than willing to share that with the committee.

By simply googling the words 3D ultrasound and Connecticut, I found 3 commercial 3D/4D ultrasound locations in Connecticut, *A Tiny Perspective*, in Glastonbury, *What's Kickin*, in Guilford, and *A Stork's Studio*, in Orange. On the websites as with the ad I attached for you, there is little to no mention of potential health concerns, although you might notice a seal that says United Imaging Partners. I don't know if all expectant mothers would notice this seal, but if they were concerned with the safety of this procedure, they would certainly have their worries resolved by this foe-seal of approval.

The United Imaging Partners "seal you can trust" prides itself on meeting strict guidelines, but when you click on the seal to find out more their reassurance is misleading and provides women with misinformation. In

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order for a facility to be certified to receive the United Imaging Partners seal, they must have the finest ultrasound equipment, but according to the FDA, it's not the equipment that is a concern, it's how practitioners operate the equipment that puts the unborn baby at risk.

If a woman decided to click on the frequently asked questions portion of a website, her fears would once again be falsely reassured by an answer to the question, "Is it safe? Are there any risks to me, or my baby?" that reads,

"Extensive studies over 30 years have found that ultrasound has not been shown to cause any harm to mother or baby. Routine scanning of all pregnancies is now normal throughout the United States."

What this warning fails to mention is that leading medical organizations discourage non-medical use and that the reason studies haven't been able to show definitive long-term effects of ultrasound is because it is ethically wrong to conduct testing on unborn babies. A few studies do suggest exposure to ultrasound during pregnancy may have an effect on human development, such as delayed speech in children.

I think most expectant mothers are well intentioned, abstaining from foods they have been instructed to avoid, drinking no more than the allotted amount of caffeine, following the many recommendations for a healthy pregnancy, and yet when it comes to ultrasounds, there is little to no mention of risk.

According to the FDA's Office of Compliance, the "FDA regulates devices, but the qualifications and behavior of technicians and physicians would be regulated by the states." I thank the committee for introducing HB 5635. We owe the women of Connecticut who choose to bear children the right to make informed and healthy decisions.

Thank you.

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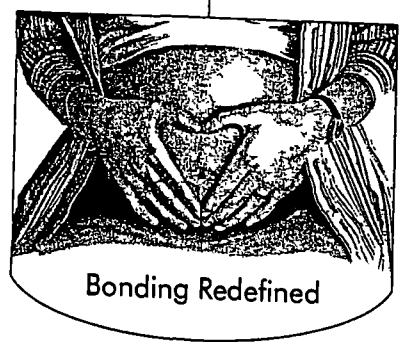
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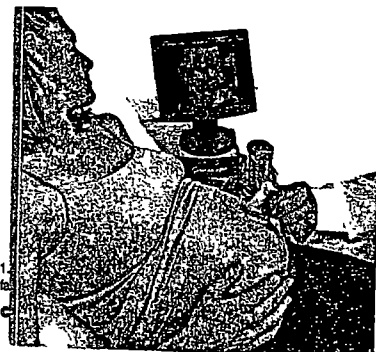
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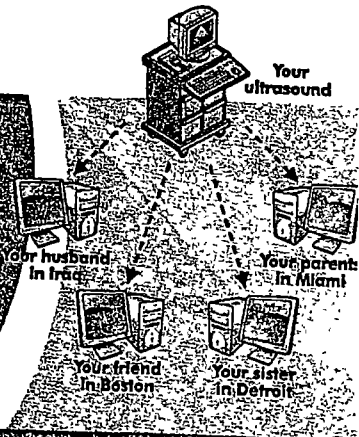
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Danville - (925) 552-5700
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www.lookingininc.com

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www.MeetTheBabyUltrasound.com

Gainesville - (352) 373-2227
www.abcaultrasound.com

Jacksonville - (888) 454-2229
www.discoveryultrasound.com

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www.tummyvisionultrasound.com

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www.momstobeultrasound.com

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www.envisionultrasound.com

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www.hudsonvalleyultrasound.com

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Ask your provider about Sonostream LIVE!



Sonostream LIVE is an exciting new technology offered through our network of providers that allows you to share your 3D/4D ultrasound session with friends and family all across the world.

Imagine being able to invite people to watch your 4D ultrasound LIVE from any computer in the world with a high-speed internet connection. Your ultrasound will also be recorded and available on demand to anyone you invite. It's a great way for everyone in your family to bond with your precious new addition no matter where they are, across town, across the country, or across the globe!



The Seal You Can Trust

Every 3D/4D ultrasound facility in our network has met strict guidelines to be a part of the largest and most respected network of 3D/4D ultrasound facilities in the country.

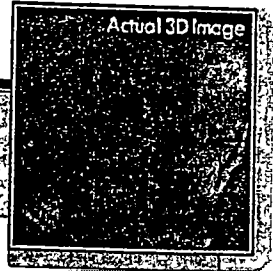
When I had my 3D/4D ultrasound, my heart skipped a beat. It's not a shadow, it's not a skeleton. It's my son. He's his sister's nose and chubby cheeks. He's real. Julie R.



(860) 652-8469

A Tiny Perspective - 74 New London Turnpike - Glastonbury, Connecticut 06033

HOME OUR FACILITY ULTRASOUND PRICING FREQUENT QUESTIONS SONOSTREAM LIVE




experience the WONDER of
3D/4D ULTRASOUND

Welcome to A Tiny Perspective 3D & 4D Ultrasound!

At A Tiny Perspective, you are able to "meet" your unborn baby! A Tiny Perspective uses brand new 3D and 4D ultrasound technology so that you can actually see your baby in live 4D motion while in your womb.

It is a memorable experience that you will cherish for a lifetime! Nothing compares to seeing 3D and 4D ultrasound images of your unborn baby. At A Tiny Perspective you will be able to actually see what your baby is going to look like before he or she is born.

Click to view our ultrasound packages!



ULTRASOUND PACKAGES START ONLY \$99!

[Click For Pricing](#)




Just IMAGINE what's to come!



We are a provider of limited diagnostic ultrasounds and a full service prenatal imaging center offering elective prenatal ultrasounds. We specialize in 3D & 4D Ultrasounds for expectant mothers, allowing for a positive bonding experience between the mother, father, family members and their unborn baby. We feel that realistic surface images provide a connection between parents and child that can be beneficial to the whole family. Something special happens to parents when the 3D & 4D Images are seen compared to the 2D image because the picture of the baby is far more realistic.

We will honor any of our competitor's coupons.



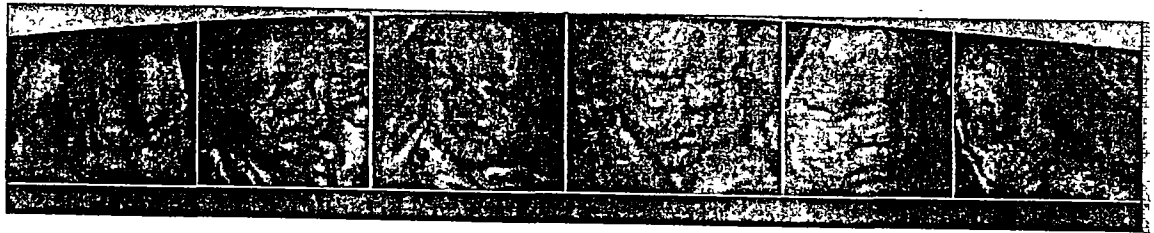
Our exciting new Sonostream LIVE technology lets you share your 3D/4D ultrasound experience. LIVE in real time with anyone in the world.

SONOSTREAM LIVE

[LEARN MORE!](#)

In the past, expectant parents weren't able to see their baby's face until he or she was born. Moms and dads could only see black and white images of their unborn child through a traditional 2D Ultrasound. With our state-of-the-art GE Voluson 730 PRO Ultrasound machine, activities of the baby inside the womb can be seen which are difficult or impossible to identify on 2D scanning.

For example, with 4D scanning the fetus can now be seen to yawn, cry, swallow, blink and perform intricate finger movements. These activities can be seen in mid pregnancy although they become more common as pregnancy advances. Ultimately, the experience that you will share will be an incredible one that you will carry with you for a lifetime.



A Tiny Perspective is located in Glastonbury, Connecticut and proudly serves the entire tri-state area. Please note that our 3D ultrasounds and 4D ultrasounds can only be performed on pregnant women who are under the care of a physician and have already had a diagnostic ultrasound. Please call our 3D / 4D facility in Glastonbury, CT at 860-652-8469 should you have any questions regarding 3D or 4D ultrasounds.

* A Tiny Perspective is an ELECTIVE ultrasound imaging facility. We require that all mothers have documentation of their medical, diagnostic ultrasound. We do not perform medical ultrasounds. However, if we are suspicious of a possible abnormality, your doctor will be notified.