

## Legislative History for Connecticut Act

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**2010**

SB153	Children	8-11, 54, 57-58, 62-64, 66-68, 71-78, 89-91, 101, 103-115, 118-129, 132-162, 192-211, 213-215,	107
	House	5454-5459, 5497-5498, 5503-5505	11
	Senate	1365-1382, 1497-1498	20
<b>Total Pages</b>			<b>138</b>

Transcripts from the Joint Standing Committee Public Hearing(s) and/or Senate and House of Representatives Proceedings

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**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**COMMERCE  
PART 1  
1-299**

**2010  
INDEX**

CHAIRMEN: Senator Musto  
Representative Urban

VICE CHAIRMEN: Senator Meyer  
Representative Jarmoc

MEMBERS PRESENT:

SENATORS: Boucher

REPRESENTATIVES: Alberts, Baram, Hovey,  
Mioli, Mushinsky, Thompson

SENATOR MUSTO: Good afternoon. Welcome to the public hearing for the Children's committee. We've got quite a few people who are going to be testifying today on several bills so I'd like to just let everybody know that as far as public testimony goes, we are going to try to limit people to three minutes. If you do hear or see any signal that it's been three minutes, please summarize your remarks. Please don't just try to finish up what you're saying real fast, but go ahead and actually tell us sort of your one or two top points. And then you can probably elaborate through questions from the committee members that will have something to ask you.

We do have a big list here today. Madam Chair, do you have anything you'd like to add?

Okay. In that case, we'll just start going through the list. First up is Senator Kane. Afternoon, Senator.

SENATOR KANE: Good afternoon, Senator Musto, Representative Urban, Senator Boucher, Representative Hovey, members of the committee. My name is Rob Kane and I represent the 32nd district in the state Senate. I come to you this afternoon to testify in support of S.B. 153, AN ACT PROVIDING A SAFE HARBOR FOR

EXPLOITED CHILDREN, and to strongly urge the committee pass this bill.

The tragedies that we read about all too often tends to harden us. And with few exceptions, nothing really truly shocks us any more. One of those exceptions is stories about children being sexually abused or exploited. Every time I hear of such a horrific crime I'm filled with a variety of emotions, and disgusted that there are people who would prey on innocent children. I'm saddened, I'm shocked that we do not punish these abusers more harshly. I'm also heartbroken for the loss of the innocence of a child. And I'm angered that there are not sufficient programs or policies to help heal these children and repair the damage done to them. It is this desire to help these abused children get the assistance that they need that spurred me to propose S.B. 153.

This bill as I propose creates a presumption that any minor child who was engaged in prostitution was either forced or enticed to do so. It offers protection to a minor from criminal prosecution for actions that they had no choice but to commit.

My original proposal went well beyond the scope of the bill and required that the courts direct the child into existing social service programs and could offer assistance in safe and secure housing, crisis intervention, counseling and other community based services. It was sought to ensure that there was a safety net in place so that those troubled children do not fall through the cracks of our society.

It is not enough to just let the minors go free and return them to a situation that probably gave rise to their crimes and troubles to begin with. We need to do more. We need to give

them a chance to rebuild their lives.

This bill, modeled on a similar proposal passed in New York two years ago, seeks to address what is tragically all too a common problem. Some experts estimate that there are a hundred thousand children, many as young as eleven years old who are exploited through prostitution every year in the United States. So while we may sit here today and think such a crime cannot happen here, we are certainly wrong. It does and can happen. It happens far too more often than we would like to admit to ourselves.

As members of a just society we should be committed to ensuring that young victims of sexual exploitation are given every possible opportunity to break free from emotional manipulation and abuse.

The first logical step is passing a state law that recognizes the need to protect, not punish, children and young teens who are apprehended for prostitution. This bill before you today is a start, but possibly does not go far enough. I ask you to expand the bill to provide referral to existing social services providers that were eliminated from my original proposal. These exploited and abused children need our help and deserve every chance to reclaim their lives.

Thank you for the opportunity you've given me to testify and I'll be here to answer any of your questions that you might have.

SENATOR MUSTO: Thank you, Senator Kane. Yes, Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER: Thanks, Rob. Are you familiar with the federal Mann Act, it's called the Mann Act,

which prohibits taking children across state lines for purposes of prostitution? And I wondered if you were familiar with that and whether or not there was a kind of presumption built into that federal law that your bill seeks to build into state law?

SENATOR KANE: Well, I think the difference -- I'm vaguely familiar, but not totally, unlike yourself, possibly, Senator Meyer. But what our bill does is -- says that the child is a victim, not a criminal. So we put the presumption that they are innocent of that particular crime. Whereas the current law, as of right now they can still be charged with that particular crime. And I think that's the basic difference.

SENATOR MUSTO: Senator Boucher.

SENATOR BOUCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you Senator for bringing this to our attention. As can be seen by the long list of people that have been signing up to testify you certainly have hit a chord. So thank you again for bring this to our attention.

SENATOR KANE: Thank you.

SENATOR MUSTO: Other questions from members of the committee? Thank you very much, Senator Kane. Commissioner Hamilton.

Good afternoon, Commissioner. Commissioner, I understand you're here on several different bills. If you could sort of give us, before you move on to a different bill, if you could just sort of highlight that for us so we know what to flip to, I'd appreciate it so we can follow along closely.

COMMISSIONER SUSAN L. HAMILTON: Sure will.

SB31  
SB154  
SB156  
SB152  
SB155  
HB5041  
SB53

SENATOR MEYER: Can you put that into context, because on the surface it doesn't sound right.

TAMARA KRAMER: Sure. So the term "investigation", I believe, and I'm not a lawyer so I will defer to DCF, but -- thank you -- the way the model works in other states, when a call comes in to the hot line with a report, the committee will -- I'm sorry -- the agency will take a look at the case. And instead of starting a formal investigation they will assess the need to the family, they'll look at what the report was and if a family is believed to be low risk or moderate risk, they will skip that formal investigation process and they will then be linked to services.

So a case worker takes on, instead of a kind of adversarial, investigatory relationship with the family, they instead will hook the family up with services in that community. And I know that DCF is working with the communities now to assess their capabilities to take on this work. And also, I think ours too, to beef up that ability. So that was addressed in my written testimony and I encourage you to look at it. But we have found that children actually are either just as safe or even more safe in this preferred process.

SENATOR MUSTO: Questions from other members of the committee? Thank you very much for coming.

TAMARA KRAMER: Thank you.

SENATOR MUSTO: Elaine Zimmerman from the Commission on Children.

ELAINE ZIMMERMAN: Good afternoon, Senator Musto, members of the committee. My name is Elaine Zimmerman, I'm the director of the Commission on Children and I'm here to speak on behalf of

HB5160  
HB5161  
SB153  
SB155

matched the dollars. So our partners are the Graustein Foundation and Tow, and should this bill pass, I'm so glad we're before you and so glad to discuss with the foundations if they would like to partner on this, but wanted to be on record reporting it.

In reference to the grandparent visitation rights, I testified on this previously with your Joint Committee of Aging. And given that we realized that we were coming up against Constitutional issues, I think that it is so wise to focus on training. So the training for DCF in grandparent issues makes total sense. We know that intergenerational activities are in the best interest of children, it provides tutelage, it teaches kids history, there's more heart.

HB5161

I would also recommend to you that in addition to the training with DCF that you consider putting this also in our state required training for couples who are divorcing. Because our state is one of the states that requires that at the point of divorce you learn how to work with your children at that point and after. And because we are seeing that grandparents get pushed out at the point of death, at the point of a new placement in a different family like foster care, and at the point of divorce, we might want to think about embedding that in the training that we do now, which is quite good with the Judicial branch of couples going through divorce.

I'd like to be on record that the commission supports the Senate Bill 153 referring to children who might be part of human trafficking. The very first job I ever had was with runaways who were on the street, who had already been incest victims. They were immediately picked up by the Mafia and

trafficked to Nevada and many of them died. So it's time we really looked at this in our state.

And we also support the bills relating to children and education placement when they are part of the system with DCF, going from place to place. But I would caution you that it is not always the case that an educational change -- that educational stability, going back to the same school is in the best interest. So if a child, for example, turns out for whatever reason to have an addiction problem, we want that child in a different school, you don't want the same community. So we would keep the language in that talks about the best interest so that we're looking case-by-case. Thank you.

SB 155

SENATOR MUSTO: Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Hi, Elaine.

ELAINE ZIMMERMAN: Hi.

SENATOR MEYER: You were in a battle it looks like. What did you do to the other person?

ELAINE ZIMMERMAN: It's just in case -- everybody should know, make sure your children are not in the sun too much. They just took out basal cells and I'll be back to normal in a few days. Thank you.

SENATOR MEYER: Great, great, great. House Bill 5160 requires an annual report card evaluating progress of children. And you know, this committee, before I became a member, set out a goal of reducing child poverty. I'm sure you were a part of that and many members at this table who were a part of it, too. Why wouldn't that be a good addition to this bill, to, among

Are there any other questions?

Cari Carson? Connecticut Voices For Children.

CARI CARSON: Good afternoon, Senator Musto and Representative Urban and members of the Select Committee on Children. My name is Cari Carson and I am a policy fellow at Connecticut Voices For Children.

We support Senate Bill 153, AN ACT PROVIDING A SAFE HARBOR FOR EXPLOITED CHILDREN. Prostitution of children occurs here in Connecticut. In less than two years, DCF has responded to reports of 25 victims of child sex trafficking. These children have suffered horrific abuses; sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, coercion. In short, they are among the most vulnerable of Connecticut's children. We believe that these children are victims of commercial child sexual exploitation and in need of services. They are not criminals.

This view is held by DCF, law enforcement at a local, state and national level and service providers. Last month, DCF made official a protocol for identifying, assessing and serving victims of child prostitution. And local law enforcement agencies have also referred these children directly to services rather than arresting them. In fact, in our research with public defenders and court officials throughout the state, very few if any children have been prosecuted for prostitution in the state of Connecticut in recent years. These efforts in law enforcement should be commended for this progressive approach to helping out these victims of exploitation.

The current statute, however, lags behind

Connecticut practice. It allows children of any age to be prosecuted for prostitution. S.B. 153 seeks to prevent this, however, it is insufficient to prevent prostitution prosecution of children and provide services. Under the bill as currently written, children can still be arrested and detained -- which can be traumatic for the children -- and prosecuted and adjudicated delinquent if the presumption of coercion is rebutted.

As such, we at Connecticut Voices For Children have proposed a revision of Senate Bill 153, which you can find on page 5 of your testimony, it's the last page. This revision states more clearly that children may not be prosecuted for prostitution and that they should be connected with services, as they are victims of child sex trafficking. We believe this rewrite brings Connecticut statute in line with current progressive practices in Connecticut and keeps these children as victims of exploitation rather than as criminals. Thank you so much.

SENATOR MUSTO: Thank you very much. Are there questions from members of the committee?

I do have a question. What specific services are provided? Do we have a statute or a rule on what specific services are provided to victims of human trafficking in Connecticut?

CARI CARSON: Under DCF's new protocol, policy, it's -- I believe it's policy 31-10-6.1, they do send a social worker to investigate the situation. Under this protocol a child will be evaluated at hospital and then referred to services as the Department identifies, as any other child victim of abuse or neglect would be served. They're looking into services specifically for child victims of sex trafficking, but right now, they would be

served within existing DCF services. The police departments have links to other services as well.

SENATOR MUSTO: Other questions from members of the committee? Thank you very much.

Allison Petit, representing Representative Hornish. Ms. Petit?

ALLISON PETIT: Hello, my name is Allison Petit. I am representing Amy Hornish, she is not available to make it today due to prior commitments. I'm her intern for this session. She wrote in support of house Bill 5041, AN ACT CONCERNING CROSS REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE AND ANIMAL CRUELTY. I have her written testimony that I'm going to read.

Dear Senator Musto, Representative Urban, Senator Meyer, Representative Jarmoc and honorable members of the Select Committee on Children. I thank the Select Committee on Children for raising this bill of which I am in strong support.

The link between violence against animals and violence against people is well documented. The FBI considers animal cruelty a reasonable predictor of violence and as such, uses animal cruelty as an indicator when profiling serial killers.

In 1997 a survey of 50 of the largest shelters for battered women in the United States found that 85 percent of woman and 63 percent of children entering shelters discussed incidents of animal abuse in their households. This can be problematic if victims do not seek sanctuary and/or professional help out of fear for the safety of their family pets.

we welcome you to the General Assembly and you did a great job, so thank you for being here.

Any other questions? Thank you, Allison.

Daniella Giordano?

DANIELLA GIORDANO: Good afternoon, Senator Musto, Representative Urban, members of the Children's Committee.

I particularly would like to note that Senator Ed Meyer is the senator of my home town, Branford.

My name is Daniella Giordano. And I'm currently a graduate student at the University of Connecticut School of Social Work, majoring in policy practice. I'm here to testify in support SB153 with revisions to stop persecuting victims of child sexual exploitation as criminals, and connecting these young people to crucial services. My concern is for children in Connecticut under the age of 17, who at this point in time, enter the juvenile justice system as perpetrators of prostitution instead of being considered victims of sex trafficking when having engaged in sexual acts for money.

This practice seems at odds with Connecticut state law that asserts that until a person reaches age 16, she or he is legally incapable of consenting to sex with someone over the age of 18, which most buyers of commercial sex are.

The way the law is written currently is blaming the victims who are sexually exploited by both traffickers and the adults buying sex with minors. Children get re-traumatized when being arrested and tried in court, reducing the chances to have productive lives of

opportunities when given a criminal record.

Eighty to ninety percent of child trafficking victims have been sexually abused themselves. SB153 is a good start to look at how we approach and treat victims of child sexual exploitation. It would eliminate the perception and the voice that claims that minors can consent to commercial sexual acts and therefore, are at fault for being exploited in this way. The exploitation usually is perpetrated by much older men who may pose as boyfriends, caretakers or protectors and later add to these roles; isolation from family and friends, threat of and acts of violence to continue to coerce young people to engage in prostitution.

According to the Polaris Project Action Center, a leading nonprofit organization combating human trafficking, a bill similar to SB153 was passed in New York in 2008. Revising SB153 to stop the prosecution of young people under the age of 17 in the first place would be more in line with what safe harbor bills are intended to accomplish.

The new safe harbor bill could then pave the way for identifying these victims of sex trafficking which would include the training of members of law enforcement in being able to do just that. Victims of human trafficking could then be connected to existing crucial services including counseling, medical care and other social services like safe housing needed to reclaim their young lives.

So I urge you in summary to revise SB153 to stop prosecuting victims of child sex trafficking as criminals and connecting them to services, knowing that you're standing up for the children of Connecticut, offering them a

way to regain their strength, dignity and hope for a better future when they have real choices about their lives that are not determined by someone else's agenda, but their own actions.

I appreciate the time that you have given me to share my views and I also would like to note that I do support the revision suggested by Connecticut Voices For Children.

SENATOR MUSTO: Thank you very much. Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER: Members of the committee, Danielle is indeed a very distinguished constituent of mine. With our respective spouses we actually attend the same church together. And she has been a major leader, not just with respect to child protection and social work generally, which is going to be her career, but also with respect to prison reform.

So Daniella, let me ask you a question, though. You're inviting us, I think, to modify this bill to connect it more with some services for victims. Do you want to elaborate a bit on that in terms of how we would modify this bill, amend this bill in order to add a reference to services?

DANIELLA GIORDANO: I think Cari Carson from the Connecticut Voices For Children said it really eloquently, to really connect the children, the young children that are going to be identified -- sometimes through law enforcement, sometimes by other people -- to really connect them to the services that DCF and other community center providers already have in terms of, really, medical care, safe housing, counseling, anything that the authorities would determine appropriate for the young people that would be identified that way.

LUCY NOLAN: Yes, -- access, yes -- and it's by federal law. It's regulation -- USDA has -- it's a definition defined by the USDA.

SENATOR MEYER: Okay. I'm not sure whether we're allowed, in drafting legislation to refer to other legislation in other jurisdictions or not. We might have to define it ourselves.

LUCY NOLAN: I can get you a definition. I'd be happy to write up a definition for you.

SENATOR MEYER: We can steal the definition.

LUCY NOLAN: Yeah, you can steal the definition, which is what I would have done.

SENATOR MEYER: Yeah. Right. Okay. Thanks.

REP. URBAN: Lucy, I think that's an excellent suggestion because we were -- you know, as we were looking at the report card and what we had initially gotten back from program review and investigation, we want to expand on that and get indicators that really flesh out the picture of what's happening to children in the state of Connecticut. So that's a great recommendation. Thank you and thank you for all your good work.

LUCY NOLAN: Thank you very much.

REP. URBAN: Are there any other questions? I think we're all set, Lucy. Thank you.

April Raczka, and if I messed that up, please tell me, April.

APRIL RACZKA: Hi, good afternoon, no, you were correct. Raczka is correct.

Good afternoon, my name is April Raczka. I'm

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the director of the Sexual Assault Crisis Service of Hartford and New Britain regions.

My organization provides free and confidential sexual assault crisis counseling and advocacy to residents in -- actually over a 43 town region, which includes all of Hartford County plus the town of Plymouth and part of Tolland County as well. I'm also a family therapist, and in both roles I have the combined experience of over ten years working with children who have been victimized and sexually exploited.

Our agencies have worked on several cases involving adults and children who have been forced into prostitution. This is often not considered an option by children or adults and the reality is that children do not choose to be abused.

The vast majority of those who are involved in trafficking are currently being sexually abused at that hands of those who have promised them refuge. If the abuse is not current then they may have been victims in the past. Many times the victims have known no other life but that with which sex without consent is considered normal. They have not had role models or anyone to protect them and the systems that are meant to protect them have failed them.

I know this because I've worked personally with dozens of children and young women who have reported directly to me that they were sexually exploited in order to create income for their families. In many instances those children are exploited by those who were sexually assaulting them at home on a daily basis.

As director of the Hartford and New Britain Region Sexual Assault Crisis Services, my staff

has reported several cases to me, and some quite recently in which adolescent males and females were exploited by their parents or foster parents. I've raised this in an effort to ask that these children are provided with the most comprehensive care and treatment rather than punishment. I ask that we as advocates for children, counselors and as human beings can recognize that this is not something a child or adolescent wants for themselves. They need help and desperately.

For this reason, I ask that you support S.B. 153, AN ACT PROVIDING SAFE HARBOR FOR EXPLOITED CHILDREN. Rather than punish young victims of sexual exploitation, it's our job and responsibility as adults, advocates and human beings to protect them and to get them the treatment they need to thrive and live healthier lives.

And I know that you guys mentioned a couple of times who were the treatment providers and just so that you know, an agency such as ours does provide short term counseling, usually somewhere up around three months worth at a time and we have access to long term appropriate care providers as well. So we would be able to connect them. Thank you.

SENATOR MUSTO: Thank you. Are there questions from members of the committee?

Is there one thing that you would suggest that we do to specifically help this population? You know, I mean, we can write in the law that we're going to provide services and then be treated as victims. We can write all this stuff down. What would be sort of the one thing that might help most, as far as from your experience?

APRIL RACZKA: I was just taking a look at the DCF protocol by someone who was sitting next to me. Actually, from a representative from Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, and I think that possibly changing that protocol to include connecting to our hot line immediately would be helpful. If that's something you could change that would be really helpful. Our hot line is accessible 24 hours, 7 days a week, so anytime these calls were to come in from wherever they were coming from -- DCF, if it came through law enforcement, if it came through a parent or care giver or something like that, then they could access us right away for counseling on the phone, that sort of thing -- if that's what you're asking. Like immediate access to treatment, that sort of thing.

SENATOR MUSTO: And is that something that -- I mean, that's something I don't think the legislature would be that much involved in. Is that something that you've tried to talk to DCF about that or --

APRIL RACZKA: We haven't yet, but that's something we definitely would do. I mean, we get regular referrals, especially from the Hartford and Manchester and New Britain DCF offices because that's in our territory. So some of the cases have been similar to those that were exploitation and that sort of -- human trafficking and that sort of thing.

As far as the law, I would just support the Voices For Children in what they have stated. Other than that I don't have anything else.

SENATOR MUSTO: Thank you. Are there questions from other members of the committee? Yes, Representative Thompson.

REP. THOMPSON: Good afternoon. You operate out of New Britain as I understand it. One of the programs down there -- and I'm not sure I have the title right -- Pathways Senderos -- you're very familiar with that? We have given them, in the past, very high grades for their teen pregnancy prevention program and I wonder if that has set any tone that you might find effects the community differently than other programs in preventing this type of situation from occurring?

APRIL RACZKA: I'm not sure I understand what you're asking. Are you asking -- sets a tone -- as far as --

REP. THOMPSON: Well, it seems that they have found a way to be -- reach kids of the same age group.

APRIL RACZKA: They have. And we actually have programs in our building at the YWCA as well, where we're housed as our main office, which also runs pregnancy prevention programs as well. So if they're working with Pathways or if they're working with the program that's in our building, then they have that access to the counseling and to the referral, resources and advocacy as well. So I'm sure they've been very helpful. We found them as a helpful resource to young girls as well.

REP. THOMPSON: Thank you.

SENATOR MUSTO: Any other questions from members of the committee? Thank you very much.

Anna Doroghazi.

ANNA DOROGHAZI: Senator Musto, Representative Urban and honorable members of the Select Committee on Children, my name's Anna Doroghazi and I am

20153

the director of public policy and communication at Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services. CONNSACS is the statewide association of nine community based rape crisis programs in Connecticut. Our mission is to end sexual violence and ensure high quality, comprehensive, and culturally competent sexual assault victim's services.

When children under the age of seventeen are in engaged in prostitution it is difficult to imagine that their participation does not involve coercion as defined in Section 53A-192 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Coerced sex is rape and victims of sexual violence should be protected, not prosecuted under Connecticut law. S.B. 153, AN ACT PROVIDING SAFE HARBOR FOR EXPLOITED CHILDREN provides this protection. Teen and child survivors of sexual violence face myriad barriers to disclosing their abuse, including fear for their safety, fear of their offender, fear of not being believed. They should not also have to fear prosecution if they reach out for support and assistance. The proposed safe harbor law would remove one of the many barriers that exist for children who want to leave an exploitative situation. Presuming coercion in child prostitution cases removes blame from young victims and places it on those who are truly culpable, the pimps who profit from the abuse of minors and the Johns who pay to hurt children.

A Bureau of Justice statistics special report found that between January 2007 and September 2008, 31.8 percent of all human trafficking cases in the United States involved child prostitution. Although it's possible for any child to become the victim of sexual exploitation, certain populations are most at risk to become involved in prostitution. A

2002 University of Pennsylvania study found that among runaway and homeless youth, approximately 30 percent of shelter youth and 70 percent of street youth engaged in prostitution in order to meet their daily needs for food, shelter, drugs and the like. When adults take advantage of children who are homeless, hungry, suffering from addiction or being trafficked, they are preying upon vulnerability and they alone are accountable for their actions. Victims are never guilty of their victimization and young victims of prostitution deserve the protections that would be accorded to them under the proposed safe harbor legislation.

Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services supports SB153, AN ACT PROVIDING SAFE HARBOR FOR EXPLOITED CHILDREN and encourages all of you to do the same.

Thanks for giving me the time to speak and I'd be happy to answer any questions that the committee has.

SENATOR MUSTO: Are there any questions from members of the committee? We've heard a few times today that people are supporting the Voices For Children amendments that came up today. Do you have an opinion on this?

ANNA DOROGHAZI: I believe my organization's fine with all of the amendments that were proposed by Connecticut Voices For Children.

SENATOR MUSTO: Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER: I had a question I probably should have asked some of the other earlier witnesses. What kind of a track record do we have in the criminal justice system with respect to the prosecution of young people under the age of

17?

ANNA DOROGHAZI: To the best of my knowledge there have not been many, if any, cases in which children have been prosecuted. My understanding is that at this point it's left to judicial discretion. From the perspective of Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, our interest is in removing any possible barriers for people who'd want to disclose abuse. And knowing that there's potential for prosecution, is that it would be left up to a prosecutor, to a judge to determine the fate of a child victim. We want to make sure that children are as free as possible to come forward when they've been victims.

SENATOR MUSTO: Any other questions from members of the committee? Thank you very much.

Next is Sarah Egan, the Center for Children in Hartford.

SARAH EGAN: Good afternoon. My name is Sarah Egan. I'm an attorney and director of the Child Abuse Project at the Center for Children's Advocacy in Hartford, Connecticut and I'm here to express my office's support for House Bill 155, the educational stability initiative for youth in foster care, and also, for the Differential Response bill. We are in support of that as well.

My office has been very closely involved in bringing legislative initiatives regarding increasing educational stability for youth in foster care. In fact, we believe this is the fourth year running that we have proposed or worked to help propose legislation that would allow youth in foster care who are removed from their town to maintain their ability to go to the school that they started at, otherwise

which would be the child's attorney, the assistant attorney general, the parents' attorney's or guardian ad litem who disagree with the determination of DCF would be able to seek redress regarding that determination. And this is a long-winded answer and I apologize. While any dispute was pending, the child would stay put where they were. So John would keep attending wherever he was until the dispute was rectified. And then once a determination had been made either by hearing officer or the court, the child would then either stay put or go, depending on that. But again, that's part of why there's a presumption that the child should stay in their school or origin. Hopefully to cut down on the number of disputes that we might have. Does that answer?

REP. BARAM: It does and thank you for your insight.

REP. URBAN: Do we have any other questions? Thank you for your testimony.

Next on our list is Nicole Vonoy, but I've been told that she had to leave so we're going to move on to Denise Holloman.

KATHY MASCONI: Actually, my name is Kathy Mascone and I wanted to perhaps read Nicole's testimony on her behalf, if that's possible, but it is also submitted written, if you would prefer to move along.

REP. URBAN: We really are trying to move along so as long as we have her written testimony, I'd like to move on. Because Denise is also from Paul & Lisa so I think we're going to get that. Thank you so much.

DENISE HOLLOMAN: Good afternoon. My name is Denise Holloman. I am with the Paul & Lisa program and I am going to be reading a letter on behalf

SB153

of my executive director, Shaleen Silva.

In 2001 a family member of mine who was fifteen at the time was recruited into prostitution. A young teenage girl that left us as an innocent child came back to us a damaged soul. My family and I had never heard of commercial sexual exploitation. The thought of prostitution never crossed our minds as it had never touched our lives. We learned very quickly and it was very heart wrenching.

A caring detective recognized her face from a missing poster while she was being processed for solicitation for prostitution and quickly contacted us. We were by her side within hours. When she came out of the room to greet us I was overwhelmed at the change I saw in her. I had seen her several weeks prior to the date that she had went missing. And I couldn't believe my eyes. She was gone for 33 days and she had aged, she looked different as if something was not there, something was missing.

I learned quickly about prostitution and what the victimization was that these women and girls had to endure. However, this did not prepare us in any way for what the experience would be in assisting her. Services were not available to her that would assist her in a way of getting the help she needed so disparately. She left us as an innocent child and was returned to us as an extremely damaged mind, body and spirit. And we are a white, middle class family and we never imagined that this could happen to us. Her battle to get out of the life continued for eight more years.

Well, that was many years ago and I have been educated quite a bit more since then. The trauma, pain, hurt and degradation she suffered compelled me to find a way to educate

communities about what our children are up against and how we can protect them. Us as adults and caregivers, have to be empowered with the knowledge of what to look for in our children, how to react and what steps to take if our children have been victimized. It is imperative to listen to and be nonjudgmental towards the child if this occurs. These children need specialized services available to them that must include mental health and trauma therapy. If gone untreated they become the women we've served over the past nine years in Hartford and Waterbury Community court.

What she is saying is that she urges this committee to support the safe harbor bill assisting the children in getting the help that they need. Thanks.

REP. URBAN: Thank you, Denise. Do we have any questions? I do not see any questions, thank you for your testimony.

Kiley Young.

KILEY YOUNG: Good afternoon, Representative Urban and members of the Select Committee on Children. My name is Kiley Young and I am a student at the University of Connecticut School of Social Work. Thank you for allowing me to testify before you today in support of Senate Bill 153, AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRANSFER OF EDUCATIONAL CREDITS.

SB156

Senate Bill 156 would rectify the credit earning disparity that currently exists between the Unified School District Number One, which is run by the Department of Corrections, and Unified School District Number Two run by the Department of Children and Families, by requiring school districts to accept the credits earned by children and youth

SKY LOTH: My name is Sky Loth. I am addressing an additional S.B. I was wondering if I could have an additional three minutes?

REP. URBAN: Sure.

SKY LOTH: Thank you.

LAURA KNOX: Good afternoon, Representative Urban and members of the committee. We have a special greeting for Senator Boucher who has worked with us on legislation about teen dating violence and human trafficking, and Representative Mioli who participates in the child abuse public awareness events we hold every year at the state capital.

My name is Laura Knox and I am from the Center for Youth Leadership, which is based at Brein McMahon School in Norwalk. Joining me is Sky Loth who is also a member of the Center.

On behalf of the 223 student activists of the Center for Youth Leadership we are here to testify in support of House Bill 5041 and Senate Bill 153.

I'm going to skip around a bit in our written testimony just for time's sake. We'll talk first about cross reporting.

Child abuse prevention has been the focus of our public awareness and social change campaigns for ten years. Since 2008 we've been working on bringing cross training and cross reporting to animal control officers and Department of Children and families case workers in lower Fairfield County. To that end, we followed the outcomes of the meetings that were conducted by Representative Urban's Task Force on the Circle of Violence.

some sort of violent behavior towards an imaginary animal.

Although we support House Bill 5041, we're concerned about how it will be put into practice. We want it to work so here are a few things we think you should consider, some of which have already been mentioned today.

One. Will DCF case workers and animal control officers ask about animal cruelty and child abuse as a matter of routine? Will it be based on casual visual observation only?

Two. According to the bill, if the DCF case worker notes animal cruelty during a home visit, he or she would need to report it. We're concerned about the identity of the family and we want to make sure that there's full confidentiality.

And three, has anyone assessed how House Bill 5041 will assess the training and work with animal control officers, as well as who will put the training together for the animal control officers and case workers?

We're happy to hear that the Commissioners of Agriculture and DCF are willing to work together on that and lastly, we want to see who will design and implement an evaluation to see how the law is working three, six, nine months after it's enacted?

We will continue to work to bring cross reporting of animal cruelty and child abuse to lower Fairfield County.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to share our thoughts with you. And here is Sky Loth.

SKY LOTH: As Laura said, my name is Sky Loth and on

SB153

behalf of the 222 members of the Center for Youth leadership, I'm here in support of Senate Bill 153, SAFE HARBOR FOR EXPLOITED CHILDREN.

If you are runaway or a throwaway kid, no one will take you in, no aunts, uncles, no grandparents. A friend's family thought about helping, but then they thought again. You hit the streets with the clothes on your back and a slim sense of how you're going to make it.

Some guy calls to you from your car, you ignore him. He is still calling you two days later and four days after that. The car looks nice, he seems friendly. You're hungry and you need a place to sleep. Your gut tells you that stepping off the curb and into his car may not be the best thing, but your gut also needs food. So you step off the curb and into a world of servicing men, none of whom you know and none of whom care who you are. The only one who cares is the pimp who trafficks you from man to man, location to location, with the occasional beating thrown in.

According to the National Incidence Studies of Missing and Throwaway Children, of the estimated 1.5 million children who run away from home this year, tens of thousands of them will spend time working for sexual predators and selling their bodies on the street. Many will be lured into prostitution within 40 hours of leaving home.

I've never been trafficked nor have any of my friends. But we're concerned for teens in Connecticut who have, especially if Senate Bill 153 does not become law.

We've been working on trafficking since 2006, which is why we hosted a workshop that featured experts from Save the Children, the U.S.

Attorney's Office, the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women and Micheline Slattery. Micheline's story as a restavec in Haiti is what compelled our members to act.

Since then we have continued our research, led scores of public awareness activities and made a conscientiousness decision to focus on trafficking of children and teens in the United States. We have come to the conclusion that states need to stop charging children, some as young as 11 and 12 years old, with prostitution and locking them up. Why re-traumatize the child who's been sexually exploited for someone else's gain?

Connecticut is not alone in this approach. The Barton Child Law and Policy Clinic at the Emory University School of Law found that nearly all states allow children of just about any age to be prosecuted for prostitution even though children are too young to consent to sex with adults. We believe every state should provide sexually exploited children born in this country with the same protections and services that are routinely granted to international victims.

We are pleased to see that Senate Bill 153 has taken into account legislation enacted in New York, under which children arrested for prostitution would be presumed to be victims of sexual trafficking and given protection and social services. We do not see any benefit to a teen or the state of Connecticut if the teen is locked up for a crime that she was forced into committing.

As many people have noted, charging children with a crime of prostitution compounds the harm done to them and deepens feelings of guilt and worthlessness that haunts victims of sexual

exploitation.

Keeping children and teens out of the criminal justice system and hooking them up with services is in keeping with the growing movement in southern Fairfield County. Granted, neither deals with hardcore issues like trafficking, but -- excuse me.

Finally, we agree with our friends at Love 146 and the Barnaba Institute (inaudible) that the language in Senate Bill 153 should be changed to bring it line with Connecticut's Raise The Age legislation, and to insure that prosecuting a child for prostitution is not an option. The last thing someone my age needs is a criminal record for something that I was forced to do against my will. That would stigmatize me and that may compromise my ability to heal, reconnect with my family and to find a job or enroll in school.

Thank you.

REP. URBAN: Do we have any questions? Senator Boucher.

SENATOR BOUCHER: Thank you, Madam Chairman. No questions, just a commendation on this fine testimony that these terrific students from the Norwalk region have brought to us today.

In fact, the level of discourse, the level of analysis that you've done is on par not only with just college-age students, but also members of our own legislature and colleagues, who've brought a lot of analysis that we -- will actually benefit us in looking at the issue and looking at both the pluses and the cons and the issues that could arise with this important legislation.

Thank you for being here since 2:00 this afternoon, waiting so long to testify, coming that long distance under bad weather conditions from a long distance. And so we really, really appreciate the time that you've spent with us today. Thank you very much for your fine testimony.

REP. URBAN: I would just like to echo Senator Boucher's words. You did a tremendous job and you certainly have given us some things to think about on 5041.

I would let you know, Laura, that we do data tracking on something called results-based accountability on any initiative that I'm involved in. And I really appreciate the points that you brought up. And I hope we have the opportunity to discuss them with you at length. Representative Mioli.

REP. MIOLI: Thank you, Sky, thank you very much. And just to echo what they say, too. I give you an A for this. Okay? Thank you for coming. How are you getting home? Are you driving?

LAURA KNOX: No, we have our (inaudible).

REP. MIOLI: Okay. Good. Bye-bye.

REP. URBAN: Thank you, ladies.

Laura Herscovich.

JACQUELINE KABAK: Good afternoon, Representative Urban and members of the Select Committee on Children. I just want to let you know Laura Herscovich from the Connecticut Juvenile justice Line is tied up in a meeting. I'm also with the Alliance and would like to ask if I could testify in her place.

REP. URBAN: Yes. State your name for the record, though, please.

JACQUELINE KABAK: My name is Jacqueline Kabak, I'm a policy fellow with the Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance. Thank you so much for this opportunity to testify.

The Alliance supports Senate Bill 156, which would require Connecticut school districts to accept academic credits that children receive within DCF, Department of Children and Families Unified School District Number Two. This would be in the same way that they must accept credits from any youth re-entering their district from another school, including the Department of Corrections Unified School District Number One. We know this has also been a problem that's been going on in juvenile detention facilities and we would also support any statutory changes going forward that would help to close that loophole.

The proposed changes for USD2 credits is something that we don't view as controversial. It's something that we simply think needs to be corrected, it's an oversight. But without the guarantee of credit acceptance for these students returning to their home school, it's just a recipe for failure.

Imagine a student coming after a year long or two-year long placement, returning to their home school and thinking they're a junior and being told that they're a freshman. It's just an unfair situation that creates frustration and a likelihood to drop out, which we all know is -- increases the risk and is kind of a direct -- can lead to a direct line of furthering delinquency.

SB153

So in the interest of time, I won't read the rest of my testimony. I just wanted to say the Alliance is also in support of Senate Bill 153, AN ACT PROVIDING A SAFE HARBOR FOR EXPLOITED CHILDREN. The Alliance is in support of this bill and in addition, the Alliance supports the language proposed by Connecticut Voices For Children. And again, I won't read and ask that you please read our testimony and it's all included in there.

REP. URBAN: Thank you, are there any questions?  
Representative Mioli.

REP. MIOLI: Thank you, Representative Urban. Hi, Jacqueline. I must clarify. I've known Jacqueline since she was a baby. She grew up eating my pizza and (inaudible). Listen, thank you very much. I'm very happy to see you here. You know, your testimony is good and keep your remarks coming and say "Hi" to your parents. Thank you.

JACQUELINE KABAK: Thank you.

REP. URBAN: You didn't expect to come up here and be embarrassed, did you?

JACQUELINE KABAK: It's 5 o'clock and I'm ready for some pizza.

REP. URBAN: Any other questions for Jacqueline, the pizza-eater? Thank you, Jacqueline.

JACQUELINE KABAK: Thank you, Representative Urban and Representative Mioli, and thank you for this opportunity to testify.

REP. URBAN: Christina Tawadros. If I've got your name wrong, please correct me.

CHRISTINA TAWADROS: Thank you. I'm here to testify

SB 153

on Senate Bill 153, AN ACT PROVIDING A SAFE HARBOR FOR EXPLOITED CHILDREN.

For the record my name is Christina Tawadros. I am a graduate student at the University of Connecticut School of Social Work, majoring in community organizing. I'm here to testify to support Senate Bill 153 to stop persecuting victims of child sexual trafficking as criminals and providing these young people with protection and social services.

I came out today as a student and as a future social worker to speak out about my concerns for the well being of the children of Connecticut. Children under the age of 17 are presently criminalized as perpetrators of prostitution instead of being treated as victims of sex trafficking when having engaged in sexual acts for money. Connecticut needs to stop treating wounded children like criminals and provide them with services and safe houses, not jail cells. The way the law is currently written is blaming the victims who are sexually exploited by both traffickers and the adults buying the sex of minors. Children get re-traumatized when being arrested and tried in court, reducing their chances to have productive lives of opportunity when being given a criminal record.

When many of us think of sex trafficking, we think of women and children being transported from place to place, often outside the country. All around the world we hear of horrific stories of children sold for sex, such as in the rural villages of Cambodia, Thailand and the Philippines. And while we hear about these stories, we never think to fathom that such heinous crimes could happen here in our own neighborhoods.

Furthermore, when it does happen --because it does -- we punish the poor children that have been victims of exploitation. I ask you, how does this make sense? On the surface it may seem that if a person is selling their body for sex they should be prosecuted. However, these children are forced or coerced into sexual acts. I'm asking you to see the serious implications of such a law and how that re-traumatizes the young people that are thrown into jail.

I'm not a parent, but I am an older sister and an aunt of young children. I plead to all parents and anyone who cares about the well being of the younger generation of the state of Connecticut. Child victims of commercial sexual exploitation deserve to be given a chance for a better life, free from abuse.

I urge you to support Senate Bill 153 to stop prosecuting the victims of child sex trafficking and rather, recognizing vulnerability and provide them the necessary services that will rebuild the children of Connecticut.

Thank you for your time and I'd be happy to try to answer any of your questions.

REP. URBAN: Thank you, Christina. Are there any questions? Thank you very much for your testimony.

Jessica Morneault.

JESSICA MORNEAULT: Good afternoon, Representative Urban and members of the Select Committee on Children. Thank you for allowing me to testify before you on Senate Bill number 153, AN ACT PROVIDING A SAFE HARBOR FOR EXPLOITED CHILDREN. My name is Jessica Morneault and I'm currently

a graduate student at the UCONN School of Social Work with a major in community organizing. I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill 153, with an amendment to change the way the law addresses children under the age of 17 being sexually exploited through prostitution.

My first full time job after my undergraduate education was with an agency that worked to end commercial sexual exploitation. Within this agency in this position I had the opportunity to work with women who had been arrested on charges of prostitution in a supportive group setting. So through the little time that I spent with each of these women, sometimes only meeting them once or twice, I can safely say that most of these women were survivors of domestic violence, rape, incest and child sexual abuse. There were many stories of rape by Johns or being forced to perform certain sexual acts not agreed upon.

This only leads me to imagine the experiences of young girls, children sexually exploited by older men. If the law in Connecticut says that a child under the age of 16 is unable to consent to sexual activity, how can we safely say that by arresting young girls and boys for prostituting themselves is them committing a crime and not a crime being committed against them? How can we blame a child for his or her own sexual abuse by a much older man?

According to Prostitution Research and Education, a nonprofit organization that conducts research on prostitution, pornography and trafficking, the average age of entry into prostitution is 13 or 14 years of age. Young girls who are prostituted by men often become involved in the industry simply because of a lack of a safe place to call home. Most come

from drug addicted parents, domestic and sexual violence in the home and worse. Some are homeless getting involved with other men who force them into the prostitution. And interestingly enough, these girls rarely if at all keep the money or other goods they receive in return for sex.

Instead of punishing these children, we must provide them with the services they desperately need to get out of the commercial sex industry and lead healthy happy lives. Instead of jail, these young children need positive environments and that demonstrate healthy relationships and boost their self esteem. A child who grows up believing selling sex is the only way to live needs to be shown and encouraged to believe that other opportunities exist with the support of friends and family they likely never had.

We must also begin to examine and change the language we use from "women who prostitute themselves" to "women and young girls who are prostituted by the men who solicit them." This bill is a step in the right direction towards treating young girls and boys who are sexually exploited as victims of a crime committed against them and not them committing a crime. Let us stop blaming the victim and address the real perpetrators of sexual exploitation, while at the same time, providing necessary support for victims. I strongly urge you all to support Senate Bill 153. Thank you so much for your time.

REP. URBAN: Thank you, Jessica. Are there any questions? Thank you for your testimony.

Emily Cahill. Welcome, Emily.

EMILY CAHILL: Good afternoon, Representative Urban and distinguished members of the committee. My

name is Emily Cahill and I am a graduate student at the University of Connecticut School of Social Work. I'm speaking in support of Senate Bill 153, AN ACT PROVIDING A SAFE HARBOR FOR EXPLOITED CHILDREN.

Under current law, minors engaging in sexual acts for compensations can be arrested and charged with prostitution, which subjects them to criminal penalties. The proposed legislation recognizes that the sexual exploitation of children is not a criminal justice issue. It is a child welfare issue.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, the average age at which girls first become victims of prostitution is 12 to 14 years old. For boys, the average age of entry is 11 to 13. These children often come from homes where they have been abused or from families that have neglected them. It is common for children and teenagers to be coerced into prostitution or enter as a way to support themselves financially.

Arrest and prosecution are not the answer. Arrest can lead to re-victimization and shame, which only intensifies the stigma and trauma these victims endure on the streets. Sexual exploitation is a severe and widespread problem. Connecticut's children and adolescent victims need our support and understanding, not criminal records. It would be more beneficial for our state to stop treating exploited children and adolescents as criminals and instead, we should identify them as victims and direct them to outreach and support services to address the trauma they have suffered at the hands of their traffickers and other adults. These youths are more at risk for HIV and other serious illnesses as well as loss of educational opportunities and increased

vulnerability to abuse.

These children and adolescents will require psychological care in a safe environment to start the recovery process in hopes of restoring their strength and sense of self worth.

Prosecution and arrest will not likely achieve these goals. I urge you to support Senate Bill 153 as a step in helping exploited youth in Connecticut. By passing this bill we will recognize them as victims of trafficking and not criminals. Thank you for your time.

REP. URBAN: Thank you. Do we have any questions? Seeing none, thank you very much, Emily.

Karen Jones. Welcome, Karen.

KAREN JONES: Good evening, Representative Urban, members of the Select Committee on Children, my name's Karen Jones and I'm an animal control officer. I'm here representing the Connecticut Municipal Animal Control Officers Association, which I'm currently serving as vice president.

As currently proposed, we oppose the raised bill number 5041, CROSS REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE AND ANIMAL CRUELTY. While this proposed bill would be very beneficial to the welfare of children and animals, it comes with many questions and concerns from an animal control officer's point of view.

The majority of animal control officers work for local police departments directly or work closely with them. I would be surprised if any such officer would neglect reporting any suspected child abuse case. If reporting is to become mandatory then there must be consideration for proper training and protocol.

their injured animals to the vet. So there's another -- conflicting information on that.

But I really appreciate your testimony here and I'm very much hoping and I will be getting in touch with you to work on the language so we can get it to a place where it will work for the ACOs as well as DCF, and ultimately, the children.

Are there any questions for Karen?

I look forward to working with you, Karen.

KAREN JONES: Thank you, Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN: Thank you. Frank Barnaba..

FRANK BARNABA: Good afternoon, it's great to be here. I'm president of the Barnaba Institute and I want to thank Senator Musto and Senator Urban and this prestigious committee for letting me testify here for a few minutes.

I've been in the field for 30 years, working with children and child prostitution and I am very supportive of the safe harbor bill 153.

I wanted to talk a little bit about law enforcement. And I have -- most of the 30 years I worked professionally and ten years before that, five with Salvation Army and five with Catholic Charities -- I've worked much of my time in New York City, but worked with many runaways from Connecticut in New York City.

And I've had very, very good results with police officers. We had a wonderful, wonderful program that we got started in New York City. And some of the good things that came out of that -- I worked very extensively with FBI and it was several agents, we'd just go by first

names, Pat, worked with me on the streets for almost four years. And the first night -- I always remember this so well, she said, "Look, I'm assigned here from Justice Department to work with you, but don't expect me to care about these children or anything else. That's not my thing."

Well, I don't think we were out at 15 or 20 minutes and one of the girls I was working with, her name was Joanie, was nine months pregnant and still prostituting and only 15 years of age. And she was lying on the sidewalk in labor. And Pat jumped out, put her arms around her and said, "Don't worry, honey, don't worry, we'll get you right to the hospital in time." And we just made it. And after that, Pat was just wonderful working with me and with all the children.

I've had problems sometimes. One time we had a young girl from Oklahoma and she was a very interesting girl. She was working on 27th Street and really, really getting the customers. And we found out what the problem was, she was 15, she was at a party when she was 14 in Oklahoma City and just like all kids, was having a good time, and a police officer came in, grabbed her by the arm, slapped her across the face. That is a true thing because she was resisting what he called arrest.

Well, we worked a whole, whole year with her to try to get her to leave and come back, get the charge taken off. I spoke to the officer, he said, "No problem, we will do this." We get her back to Oklahoma. Boom, they're waiting at the airport with handcuffs. They handcuffed her, she -- we got her back out after five months, but then we lost her in New York and two years after that, we found her dying in the streets of New York. I will never forget that.

I just wanted to share the importance though, of working with police and we're just starting to work with a major city in Connecticut that really want to know how to work with these kids.

SENATOR MUSTO: Senator Boucher.

SENATOR BOUCHER: Thank you, sir. Thank you for your testimony, compelling as it is.

One of the concerns I have and maybe through all our work in this area, the sticky issue of when we reduce a penalty for someone, does that also make them a target for others that would manipulate them because of their age and the fact that they would not be prosecuted, to encourage them to enlist younger and younger women into that area of business?

FRANK BARNABA: In answering that question, I think, yes, that's possible.

One of the biggest problems of all of working with children in prostitution, there are no homes for these kids. The FBI recently -- and I salute Mr. Mueller for doing this -- they had many raids throughout the United States, and now they are slowed down again for the same reason, they have no place to put these children. So it is really a serious problem.

SENATOR MUSTO: Representative Thompson.

REP. THOMPSON: You're familiar with -- what's the name -- Covenant House?

FRANK BARNABA: We do a lot of work with Covenant House, a lot of work.

REP. THOMPSON: And that's right in the center of

Manhattan, I believe.

FRANK BARNABA: Yes, it is. It's on 41st Street.

REP. THOMPSON: And there's certain -- just the bigness of the city and so on -- the kids apparently find some way getting to Covenant House and I imagine police and everybody else refers them and so on. And that does provide a temporary way station for these kids, as I understand it.

FRANK BARNABA: Yeah, they cannot force them to stay there or anything like that. So kids come and go. And Covenant House in recent-- year-and-a-half, two years of really taking a big hit because of the recession, so they've closed down a lot of their -- they have 21 other locations. And they've closed down a lot of their -- there's no more street outreach, which is really a shame because they did help so many kids that way. And they're trying desperately to get the funds they need. But it is -- they're wonderful people, they're warm people and they're caring people.

REP. THOMPSON: Well, I didn't realize they were hit that bad --

FRANK BARNABA: Oh, boy.

REP. THOMPSON: I still contribute, but I'm not a millionaire.

FRANK BARNABA: So do I.

REP. THOMPSON: I was just thinking what kind of place could we have here in a state like Connecticut where, you know, I think if you had a Covenant House probably kids would avoid it because of -- unless they were very desperate where you needed a meal and so on and so forth.

But it doesn't seem there's a -- I don't know -- is there someplace where -- right now -- that operates in our state that will provide temporary?

FRANK BARNABA: Not for these types of children that I'm aware of, sir. But I think we sure need it. Thank you.

SENATOR MUSTO: Other questions from members of the committee?

Sir, have you had a chance to read the bill?

FRANK BARNABA: Not yet, no. I have not. I've been very busy on another project. I am supporting it.

SENATOR MUSTO: If you do get a chance to read it, if you might send a letter to the Chairs, which we can distribute with any of your comments on it, we'd appreciate it. Thank you.

FRANK BARNABA: Okay, my director has kept me informed pretty well. Thank you.

SENATOR MUSTO: Thank you. Raymond Bechard. Good afternoon.

RAYMOND BECHARD: Good evening.

SENATOR MUSTO: Good evening.

RAYMOND BECHARD: Senator, Representative and members of the committee, thank you for addressing these issues.

My name is Raymond Bechard. I'm with the Coalition Against Human Trafficking, an organization that works in building awareness and providing educational opportunities in the area of human trafficking.

I've also served on the Connecticut Legislators Domestic Violence in Immigrant Communities Task Force. I'm here today to speak in favor of Senate Bill 153, with revisions.

In my work as a human rights advocate specializing in the fight against underage prostitution and human trafficking, I've come to realize there is an urgent need to aggressively address the issue of commercial sexual exploitation other wise known as CSEC crimes here in Connecticut.

Now, to clarify, the U.S. Department of Justice defines a CSEC crime as crimes of a sexual nature committed against youthful victims younger than 18 years old, primarily or entirely for financial or economic reasons. Now, it's true of most of us, it's very hard to believe that CSEC crime exist in a widespread nature here in Connecticut. It's very hard to measure how these crimes exist here simply because it's a hidden crime. And much of criminal justice is not aware of what to look or in these crimes.

The reality is that several factors -- and these factors are outlined in my written testimony that I've given to the committee -- several factors have created a perfect storm for CSEC victims here in Connecticut.

And that's not the -- the only reason I want to be here today is to urge passage of 153, not only by using the language that is there, but adding language which reflects the standards similar to federal law. Specifically those set forth by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act -- or TVPA. TVPA goes beyond the legal test of coercion, which is set forth in S.B. 153 in the previous Connecticut law, and making it an

illegal commercial sex acts, which are endorsed by -- and this is a quote -- "endorsed by force, fraud or coercion, or which the person induced to perform such an act does not attain the age of 18", end quote.

In short, the standard adds the dynamic of "force" or "fraud" to those methods by which a young person can be induced to perform commercial sexual acts. It also states very clearly that anyone 17 years or younger is protected within the legal safe harbor.

CSEC crimes and the ability for criminal justice in Connecticut to prosecute them are best exemplified by the federal case of United States versus Dennis Paris, which was tried here in federal court in Hartford. A very well known case in which some of the victims were 14 years old. They weren't brought in from another country, they weren't kidnapped. They were from Vermont, they were from New Hampshire, some were recruited out of Connecticut high schools.

Now, Connecticut law fell short to be able to prosecute these crimes that were solely done, performed here in Connecticut so it had to be tried in Federal Court. We have a long way to go in fighting CSEC crimes in Connecticut. And the effort to protect these young victims will include building awareness in law enforcement schools and the greater community. It will also involve passing and enforcing new laws which ensure the prosecution of those who exploit and abuse young people, promoting sexual services for money and those on whom the sexual acts are performed, known as pimps and Johns. Both are equally guilty of commercial sexual exploitation. What I'm talking about here is going beyond the fact of using coercion, but force or fraud. My argument

would be that the best safe harbor for these young people is increased prosecution and reduced demand.

Reducing demand will be the best safe harbor and that is done by reducing the demand for these victims. If there is a continued demand, if it's as easy to get these victims online as it is now -- you can order a young girl online as easy as ordering a pizza and have her delivered to your hotel or home. If that demand stays that easy, we will never get rid of this problem. If the demand is reduced, the market is reduced and these children will never be in harm's way to begin with. Thank you very much.

SENATOR MUSTO: Thank you. Senator Boucher.

SENATOR BOUCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm actually very pleased that you were here to testify because one of the things that has been bothering me about this issue is that it seems to only be addressing one side of this particular problem. And that is the side of reducing the actual plan that we consider the victim as being an under aged girl, but in the process of doing that are we actually making them become easier targets? So that there's supposedly no legal cost to their engaging in activity and thereby increasing the desirability -- would coerce or those that would force or use fraud to entice them into doing it because, you know, you're going to get off scott-free, so it's okay, you can engage in this.

And the previous speaker did say that it might end up actually increasing that crime. And you have at least brought forward the other side of the coin is let's also then, make it a greater

penalty for those people that are using these young victims. We should be heavier handed with those individuals that are actually putting those young girls in these terrible positions and increasing the victimization.

RAYMOND BECHARD: I concur. For instance in Sweden, the penalties have become very heavy on the Johns, on the customers. And the reduction in prostitution and trafficking there is incredible.

The other thing is again in going back to the federal law, if we go to the legal test of force, fraud or coercion for any age, it then leaves the crime of prostitution and then becomes a crime of human trafficking. If we were to apply those same legal test here; force, fraud or coercion -- right now for any age in Connecticut I believe it's just coercion -- you would then make it easier for Connecticut prosecutors to prosecute criminals for human trafficking laws rather than just a Class B misdemeanor, which pimping now is, promoting prostitution, which is 30 days. And they go in and out and do a 30 day stint like nothing.

But if we provide safe harbor for victims who are underage and at the same time increase the prosecutorial tools that can be used to prosecute human traffickers, which pimps are, then we can make them really scared to do any business in this area.

SENATOR BOUCHER: As I said, I am really glad that you did bring this to our attention. I'm hoping that the committee will consider that and make this bill -- create two aspects, two parts to it, but given that it is the Children's committee, we may be only able to address those under aged, and then I would presume that it

would have to go then to another committee, possibly the Judiciary Committee. And in that committee they certainly could take a look at it probably and you know, depending on the information they receive, maybe take it further. But at least for our committee, I'm hopeful that the Chairs will consider these suggestions that you've provided us and I much appreciate it. Thank you.

RAYMOND BECHARD: Thank you, Senator.

SENATOR MUSTO: Thank you very much. Reinna White?

VOICE: Reinna White left.

SENATOR MUSTO: Are you Regina?

REGINA DYTON: I'm here as the manager of the Children's Advocacy Center, located in St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center. Children's Advocacy Center means that we're accredited by the National Children's Organization and are one of about 700 in the nation and five in Connecticut. We are mandated by statute to provide a multi-disciplinary response to child sexual abuse and severe cases of physical abuse under the Governor's Task Force on Neglected and Abused Children.

I'm here on behalf of Bill 153 in support of it. I'm not going repeat the wonderful things that have been said. But I want to say as part of the multi-disciplinary response, we serve five judicial districts and in addition to providing direct services, that is doing forensic interviews of children who allege abuse and having that really serve as evidence for investigation, prosecution and hopefully keeping young children off the stand.

We meet regularly to review the cases with the prosecutor from that district, the sergeant from that district, a medical professional who's done the medical exams and DCF. So hopefully, you know, all the heads were at the table to deal with it.

There are many factors in why children don't reveal that they're being abused and in this case, commercially exploited for sex. But one of the most common is "You're going to be in trouble." And though we've seen few cases of the 501 children we saw in 2009 -- and we know that less than ten percent of child sex abuse is reported -- but in 2009, we saw 501 children, three of those cases had to do with the sexual exploitation of children. We know that there are many more.

All children didn't tell sooner because they were told they'd get in trouble. For the children who were exploited, they were told, "You'll be arrested for prostitution." They were told by their pimps, "I'll get a little bit of time. I have money, it'll be nothing. You'll be in jail for prostitution and everybody will think you're a so-and-so, so-and-so."

So it's my hope that as we look at the development of this bill that we look at a way in which victims will be educated to know they won't be in trouble. And I absolutely say, please, yes, let's really jump on the prosecution piece of it. That's why I talked about that. We have a lot of issues in terms of resources in this state, I understand that.

Juvenile divisions are kind of seen as kiddie cops off on the corner. Their budgets aren't even on the radar screen. We've got some pimps riding around Hartford now, we know who they

122  
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SELECT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

February 23, 2010  
2:00 P.M.

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are. One victim was in -- she's afraid to tell about the other seven. One had to go in victim witness protection because she had seen several murders. So thank you.

SENATOR MUSTO: Thank you for coming down. And for waiting for so long.

REGINA DYTON: I thought it was important.

SENATOR MUSTO: Any questions from members of the committee?

REGINA DYTON: I didn't have time to do it today, but I do want to ask the multi-disciplinary partners to submit something in writing to you. But I'll be seeing them tomorrow.

SENATOR MUSTO: Thank you very much. Is there anyone else who did not sign up, but would like to speak?

In that case, I will close the meeting. Thank you very much.

Pg 9  
Line 23

Testimony in support of S.B. 153  
"Safe Harbor" for sexually exploited minors

Select Committee on Children  
Legislative Office Building  
300 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

February 23, 2010

Dear Senator Musto, Representative Urban and the Select Committee on Children,

I began my career working specifically with victims of commercial sexual exploitation back in 1979 after meeting an eighteen year old girl named Lisa M. who had been groomed by a man she thought was her boyfriend into the world of drugs and prostitution.

Alone and ashamed, she did not feel she could turn to her family for support. After meeting Lisa by chance at a diner during a snowstorm, my wife, Audrey, and I began working with her to understand how an honors student from a good family in Connecticut could fall prey to commercial sexual exploitation.

After months of counseling and drug-addiction therapy from a licensed clinician, Lisa was making significant progress and planned to start college. But before she could successfully escape the massage parlor that exploited her, she was found dead with two men in New Haven.

In her honor, Audrey and I helped form a non-profit organization to combat the exploitation of women and children. Currently, I am the President of the Barnaba Institute, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization whose mission is to raise awareness about human trafficking as it pertains to sexual exploitation through education and media; to provide professional training courses on how to identify human trafficking victims and to provide support, guidance and care to at-risk, sexually exploited and trafficked youth and adults.

Throughout my career in this field, I have assisted youth and women trapped in commercial sexual exploitation and human trafficking. I have been involved in cases where law enforcement treated the minor as a criminal and cases where law enforcement treated the minor as a victim. The latter worked the best and enabled the victim to be treated as a human being where she was referred to appropriate social services.

I strongly support S.B. 153 which will establish a presumption in prosecution of a person under the age of seventeen for prostitution that such person was a victim of the crime of trafficking in persons. As the bill is currently written, I feel that minor changes would greatly strength its effectiveness. These suggestions include:

- a. Leniency in cases where a child is arrested for other criminal offenses but is suspected to be a victim of sexual exploitation. Such offenses are often linked to their exploitation and victimization.
- b. Alter the current language of the bill which removes all possibility for rebuttal or for defense to be lodged against the minor questioning her coercion.
- c. Recommend that minors in prostitution cannot be charged with prostitution after arrest, but rather referred by the judge to social services upon court hearing. Having charges of prostitution on record, even sealed records, is humiliating for the victim and can make it difficult for her to recover.
- d. Recommend that the age be raised to "under 18" to coordinate with "Raise the Age" (Public Act 07-04) and the Federal Trafficking in Persons Act which states that any minor under the age of 18 is a victim of human trafficking.

The following is an excerpt from Sabrina (name altered to protect her identity), a survivor of prostitution, who describes what it still feels like, even fifteen years later, to have prostitution-related charges on her record:

*"I feel the hardest obstacle is my criminal background. I haven't applied for several jobs because of that. I don't want to explain it. A lot of times I feel like it would be better if I had been arrested for drugs instead of loitering for the purpose of prostitution. People are more accepting of drug addicts than prostitutes."*

It is my understanding from Senator Kane's office that this bill did not pass last year because it was confused as being unnecessary in light of laws already in effect. I respectfully disagree that the "Safe Harbor" bill is unnecessary. In fact, New York State passed a similar "Safe Harbor" law in 2008 after five years of educating the legislators that state and federal laws do not inherently protect minors in prostitution. "Safe Harbor" specifically addresses minors in prostitution so that no child can be prosecuted for prostitution under any circumstances. This saves the child from re-traumatization in cases defense presents evidence against the presumption of coercion. It is my experience that no minor can consent to prostitution. Every minor in prostitution that I have worked with entered prostitution as a result of coercion, manipulation, force and/or sexual assault.

Thank you for considering S.B. 153, "Safe Harbor" for sexually exploited minors. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 860-575-1195.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Frank N. Barnaba*  
President  
The Barnaba Institute

Pg 9  
Line 17

Good afternoon Senator Musto, Representative Urban and other members of the Committee.

My name is Emily Cahill and I am a student at the University of Connecticut School of Social Work. I am speaking in support of Senate Bill 153, An Act Providing a Safe Harbor for Exploited Children. Under current law, minors engaging in sexual acts for compensation can be arrested and charged with prostitution, which subjects them to criminal penalties. The proposed legislation recognizes that the sexual exploitation of children is not a criminal justice issue; it is a child welfare issue.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, the average age at which girls first become victims of prostitution is 12-14 years old. For boys and transgender youth, the average age of entry is 11-13. These children often come from homes where they have been abused, or from families that have abandoned them. It is common for children and teenagers to be coerced into prostitution or enter as a way to support themselves financially. Arrest and prosecution are not the answer. Sending these youths to juvenile detention facilities are not the solution. Arrest will lead to re-victimization and shame which only intensifies the stigma and trauma these victims endure on the streets.

Sexual exploitation is a severe and widespread problem. Connecticut's child and adolescent victims need our support and understanding, not criminal records. It would be more beneficial for our state to stop treating exploited children and adolescents as criminals. Instead, we should identify them as victims and provide outreach and support services to address the trauma these youths have suffered at the hands of their traffickers and other adults. These youths are at risk for HIV and other serious illnesses as well as loss of educational opportunities, and increased vulnerability to abuse. These children and adolescents will require psychological care in a safe environment to start the recovery process in hopes of restoring their strength and sense of self worth. Prosecution and arrest will not likely achieve these goals.

I urge you to support Senate Bill 153 as a step in helping exploited youths in Connecticut. By passing this bill, we will recognize them as victims of trafficking and not criminals. Thank you for your time. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you.

pg 9  
Line 15

## Connecticut State Legislative Session 2010

## Testimony to the Select Committee on Children

Public Hearing Re: S.B. 153 – An Act Providing a Safe Harbor for Exploited Children

Submitted by Jessica Mornault

Good afternoon to all members of the Select Committee on Children.

Thank you for allowing me to testify before you on Senate Bill Number 153: An Act Providing a Safe Harbor for Exploited Children.

My name is Jessica Mornault and I am currently a graduate student at the UConn School of Social work with a major in Community Organizing. I am here today testifying in support of S.B. 153 with an amendment to change the way the law addresses children under the age of seventeen being sexually exploited through prostitution.

My first full time job after my undergraduate education was with an agency that worked to end commercial sexual exploitation. Within this position, I had the opportunity to work with adult women who had been arrested on charges of prostitution in a supportive group setting. Through the little time I spent with each of these women, sometimes only meeting them once or twice, I can safely say that most of these women were survivors of domestic violence, child sexual abuse, incest, or rape. There were many stories of rape by Johns or of being forced to perform certain sexual acts not agreed upon.

This only leads me to imagine the experiences of young girls—children—sexually exploited by older men. If the law in Connecticut states a child under the age of sixteen is unable to consent to sexual activity, how can we safely say that by arresting young girls, and boys, for "prostituting" themselves is *them* committing a crime and not a crime being committed *against* them? How can we blame a child for his or her own sexual abuse by a much older man?

According to Prostitution Research & Education, a nonprofit organization that conducts research on prostitution, pornography, and trafficking, the average age of entry into prostitution is 13 to 14 years. Young girls who are prostituted by men often become involved in the industry simply because of a lack of a safe place to call home. Most come from drug addicted parents, domestic and sexual violence in the home, and worse. Some are even homeless, getting involved with older men who force them into prostitution. And interestingly enough, these young girls rarely, if at all, keep the money or other goods they receive in return for sex. Instead of punishing these children, we must provide them with the services they desperately need to get out of the commercial sex industry and lead healthy, happy lives.

Instead of jail, these young children need positive environments to grow up in that demonstrate healthy relationships and boost their self esteem. A child who grows up believing selling sex is the only way to live needs to be shown, and encouraged to believe, that other opportunities exist with the support of the friends and family they likely never had.

We must begin to also change the language we use from women who "prostitute" themselves to women and young girls and boys who are "prostituted" by the men who solicit them. This bill is a step in the right direction—towards treating young girls and boys who are sexually exploited as victims of a crime committed against them, a crime committed by men who continue to support and promote the real problem—a commercial sex industry that degrades women and children. Let us stop blaming the victim and address the real perpetrators of sexual exploitation while at the same time providing the necessary supports for victims. I strongly urge you all to support revisions of S.B. 153.

Thank you all so much for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Pg 9  
Line  
13**Testimony to the Select Committee on Children****Public Hearing Re: S.B. 153-An Act Providing a Safe Harbor for Exploited Children****Submitted by Christina Tawadros****February 23, 2010**

Good afternoon Senator Musto, Representative Urban, and members of the Children's Committee.

I am here today to testify on Bill S.B. 153: An Act Providing a Safe Harbor for Exploited Children.

My name is Christina Tawadros and I am currently a Graduate student at the University Of Connecticut School Of Social Work. I am here to testify to support S.B. 153 to stop persecuting victims of child sexual trafficking as criminals and providing these young people with protection and social services.

I came out today to speak out about my concern for the children in Connecticut. Children under the age of seventeen are presently criminalized as perpetrators of prostitution instead of being treated as victims of sex trafficking when having engaged in sexual acts for money. Despite the fact that, under Connecticut State Law, children under the age of 16 cannot consent to sex, young children are routinely charged and incarcerated for prostitution. Connecticut needs to stop treating exploited children like criminals and provide them with services and safe houses, not jail cells.

The way the law is currently written is blaming the victims who are sexually exploited by both traffickers and the adults buying the sex of minors. Children get re-traumatized when being arrested and tried in court, reducing their chances to have productive lives of opportunities when being given a criminal record.

When many of us think of sex trafficking, we think of women and children being transported from place to place, often from outside the country. All around the world, we hear of horrific stories of children sold for sex such as in the case in rural villages of Cambodia, Thailand, Philippines and other parts of South East Asia. And while we hear about these stories, we never think to fathom that such heinous crimes could happen right here in our own neighborhoods. Furthermore, when it does happen (because it does) we punish the poor children that have been victims of this exploitation. I ask you, how does this make sense?

On the surface it may seem that if a person is selling their body for sex they should be prosecuted. However, these children are forced or coerced into sexual acts. I am asking you to see the serious implications of such a law and how that re-traumatizes the young people that are thrown into jail.

I am not a parent, but I am an older sister and aunt of young children. I plead to all parents and anyone who cares about the well-being of the younger generation of the State of Connecticut. Child victims of commercial sexual exploitation deserve to be given a chance for a better life free from abuse. I urge you to revise S.B. 153 to stop prosecuting victims of child sex trafficking but rather recognize their vulnerability and provide them the necessary services that will build the children of Connecticut.

Thank you for your time and would be happy to try to answer any questions.

Pg 6  
Line 17**CONN  
SACS****Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc.**

96 Pitkin Street · East Hartford, CT 06108 · Phone: 860-282-9881 · Fax: 860-291-9335 · www.connsacs.org

**Testimony of Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services  
In Support of SB 153 AN ACT PROVIDING SAFE HARBOR  
FOR EXPLOITED CHILDREN**Anna Doroghazi, Director of Public Policy and Communication  
Select Committee on Children Public Hearing, Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Senator Musto, Representative Urban, and honorable members of the Select Committee on Children, my name is Anna Doroghazi, and I am the Director of Public Policy and Communication for Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc (CONNSACS). CONNSACS is the statewide association of nine community-based rape crisis centers in Connecticut. Our mission is to end sexual violence and ensure high quality, comprehensive and culturally competent sexual assault victim services.

When children under the age of seventeen are engaged in prostitution, it is difficult to imagine that their participation does not involve coercion as defined in Section 53a – 192 of the Connecticut General Statutes<sup>1</sup>. Coerced sex is rape, and victims of sexual violence should be protected, not prosecuted, under Connecticut law. SB 153 AN ACT PROVIDING SAFE HARBOR FOR EXPLOITED CHILDREN provides this protection.

Teen and child survivors of sexual violence face myriad barriers to disclosing their abuse, including fear for their safety, fear of not being believed, and fear of being blamed for their victimization. They should not also have to fear prosecution if they reach out for support and assistance. The proposed Safe Harbor law would remove one of the many barriers that exist for children who want to leave an exploitive situation. Presuming coercion in child prostitution cases removes blame from young victims and places it on those who are truly culpable – the pimps who profit from the abuse of minors and the johns who pay to hurt children.

A Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report found that between January 2007 and September 2008, 31.8% of all human trafficking cases in the United States involved child prostitution<sup>2</sup>. Although it is possible for any child to become the victim of sexual exploitation, certain populations are more at risk to become involved in prostitution. A 2002 University of Pennsylvania study found that “among runaway and homeless youth, approximately 30% of shelter youth and 70% of street youth engaged in prostitution in order to meet their daily needs

<sup>1</sup> §53a-192(a) A person is guilty of coercion when he compels or induces another person to engage in conduct which such other person has a legal right to abstain from engaging in, or to abstain from engaging in conduct in which such other person has a legal right to engage, by means of instilling in such other person a fear that, if the demand is not complied with, the actor or another will: (1) Commit any criminal offense; or (2) accuse any person of a criminal offense; or (3) expose any secret tending to subject any person to hatred, contempt or ridicule, or to impair any person's credit or business repute; or (4) take or withhold action as an official, or cause an official to take or withhold action.

<sup>2</sup> United States. Dept. of Justice. Bureau of Justice Statistics. Characteristics of Suspected Human Trafficking Incidents, 2007 – 2007. Beck, Cohen, and Kyckelhahn. 15 Jan 2009. Accessed 20 Feb 10 < <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/cshti08.pdf>>

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for food, shelter, drugs, and the like.”<sup>3</sup> When adults take advantage of children who are homeless, hungry, suffering from addiction, or being trafficked, they are preying upon vulnerability, and they alone are accountable for their actions.

Victims are never guilty of their victimization, and young victims of prostitution deserve the protections that would be afforded to them under the proposed Safe Harbor legislation. Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services supports SB 153 AN ACT PROVIDING SAFE HARBOR FOR EXPLOITED CHILDREN and encourages you to do the same.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak with you today.

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<sup>3</sup> Estes and Weiner. “The Commercial Exploitation of Children in the United States, Canada and Mexico” Executive Summary. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania, 2002.

Pg 4  
Line 5

Testimony of April Raczka, MS-MFT  
Director of Sexual Assault Crisis Services for the Hartford/New Britain Region  
YWCA New Britain

**SB 153 AN ACT PROVIDING SAFE HARBOR FOR EXPLOITED CHILDREN**  
Select Committee on Children, February 23, 2010

Good afternoon, my name is April Raczka and I am the Director of Sexual Assault Crisis Services of the Hartford and New Britain region. My organization provides free and confidential sexual assault counseling and advocacy to residents in a 43-town region which includes all of Hartford County plus the town of Plymouth and part of Tolland County.

I am also a family therapist, and in both roles I have a combined experience of over ten years experience working with children who have been victimized and sexually exploited. Our agency has worked with several cases involving adults and children who have been forced into prostitution. This is not often considered an option by children (or adults), and the reality is that children do not choose to be abused. A vast majority of those involved in trafficking are currently being sexually abused at the hands of those who have promised them refuge. If the abuse is not current they have been victims in the past. Many times victims have known no other life but that with which sex without true consent is considered normal. They have not had role models or anyone to protect them, and the systems that are meant to protect them have failed them.

I know this because I have worked personally with dozens of children and young women who have reported directly to me that they were sexually exploited in order to create income for their family. In many instances, those children are exploited by those who were also sexually assaulting them at home on a daily basis. As Director of the Hartford/New Britain regional Sexual Assault Crisis Services, my staff have reported several cases to me, some quite recently, in which adolescent males and females were exploited by their parents or foster parents.

I write this in effort to ask that these children are provided with the most comprehensive care and treatment rather than punishment. I ask that we as advocates for children, counselors and human beings can recognize this is not something a child or adolescent wants for themselves. They need help, desperately. For this reason, I ask that you support **SB 153 AN ACT PROVIDING SAFE HARBOR FOR EXPLOITED CHILDREN**. Rather than punish young victims of sexual exploitation, it is our job as adults, advocates, human beings to protect them and to get them the treatment they need to thrive and live healthier lives.

Thank you.

April Raczka MS-MFT, Director of Sexual Assault Crisis Services, YWCA New Britain  
Phone: (860) 225-4681, ext. 211

Pg 5  
Line 14**Connecticut State Legislative Session 2010****Testimony to the Select Committee on Children****Public Hearing Re: S.B. 153-An Act Providing a Safe Harbor for Exploited Children****Submitted by Daniela Giordano**

Good afternoon Senator Musto, Representative Urban, members of the Children's Committee. I particularly would like to note that Senator Ed Meyer is the senator of my hometown of Branford.

My name is Daniela Giordano and I am currently a Graduate student at the University of Connecticut School of Social Work, majoring in policy practice. I am here to testify to support S.B. 153 with revisions to stop persecuting victims of child sexual exploitation as criminals and connecting these young people to crucial services.

My concern is for children in Connecticut under the age of seventeen who, at this point in time, enter the juvenile justice system as perpetrators of prostitution instead of being considered victims of sex trafficking when having engaged in sexual acts for money.

This practice seems at odds with Connecticut state law that asserts that until a person reaches age sixteen she or he is legally incapable of consenting to sex with someone over the age of eighteen, which most buyers of commercial sex are.

The way the law is currently written is blaming the victims who are sexually exploited by both traffickers and the adults buying sex with minors. Children get re-traumatized when being arrested and tried in court, reducing their chances to have productive lives of opportunities when being given a criminal record. 80-90% of child trafficking victims have been sexually abused.

S.B. 153 is a good start to look at how we approach and treat victims of child sexual exploitation. It would eliminate the perception and the voice that claims that minors can consent to commercial sexual acts and therefore are at fault for being exploited in this way. The exploitation usually is perpetrated by much older men who may pose as boyfriends, care takers or protectors, and later add to these roles isolation from family and friends, threats of and acts of violence to continue to coerce young people to engage in

prostitution. According to the Polaris Project Action Center, a leading non-profit organization combating human trafficking, a bill similar to S.B. 153 was passed in New York in 2008.

Revising S.B. 153 to stop the prosecution of young people under the age of seventeen in the first place would be more in line with what Safe Harbor bills are intended to accomplish. The new Safe Harbor bill could then pave the way for identifying these victims of sex trafficking which would include the training of members of law enforcement in being able to do just that. Victims of human trafficking could then be connected to existing crucial services including counseling, medical care, and other social services like safe housing needed to reclaim their young lives. Their chances of being productive citizens of our state would be abundantly increased.

I urge you to revise S.B. 153 to stop prosecuting victims of child sex trafficking as criminals and connecting them to services; knowing that you are standing up for the children of Connecticut and offering them a way to regain their strength, dignity and the hope for a better future where they have real choices about their lives that are not determined by someone else's agenda but their own actions.

I appreciate the opportunity to share my views with you and would be happy to try to answer any questions.

Respectfully submitted, Daniela Giordano

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**Testimony of  
 Michelle Noehren  
 Legislative Liaison & Events Coordinator  
 The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women  
 Before the  
 Select Committee on Children  
 Tuesday, February 23, 2010**

**In Support of: S.B. 153, AA Providing a Safe Harbor for Exploited Children**

Senator Musto, Representative Urban and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of S.B. 153, AA Providing a Safe Harbor for Exploited Children.

PCSW chairs and convenes the Trafficking in Persons Council, which was originally established in 2004 to study the issue of human trafficking and make recommendations to the Legislature. The Legislature enacted several Council recommendations into law, and as a result Connecticut has criminal and civil penalties for the crime of trafficking.

Despite the implementation of these laws, trafficked children are not fully protected from criminal penalties. Currently although children under the age of 16 cannot consent to sex, they can be prosecuted for prostitution. Additionally, the "raise the age" legislation helps children from being prosecuted as adults; however it does not prevent them from being prosecuted as juvenile delinquents.

S.B. 153 will address this problem by establishing a presumption that a person, who is under the age of 17 and being prosecuted for prostitution, is a victim of trafficking. This bill would acknowledge that commercially sexually exploited and trafficked children are better served in community counseling and shelter program rather than juvenile justice lock-up facilities.

This bill compliments the intent of the anti-trafficking statutes by protecting, rather than punishing, victims of trafficking. We appreciate your attention to this matter.

**Dear Members of The Select Committee on Children:**

I am an 18-year old girl who supports S.B.153 "An Act Providing a Safe Harbor for Exploited Children." I was one of those kids: scared and lost with no control of my life. I use to run away from home with no place to go. I was looking for someone to love me, I became involved in prostitution. I didn't know what I was getting myself into. I have been raped and beaten many times and I still have these memories that will be with me for the rest of my life. I was 14 years old; I did not try to tell anyone because I was scared; scared what they would do to me but also what the government thought of me. I never got arrested but I know many people that have been. It was hard to see girls I knew go to jail for something they had no control over. People think prostitution is control over your body but really, it is much more than that. I had people threaten me and force me to do things I did not want to do. I felt like if I did not do what they wanted me to do I would be seriously injured. I was lucky that I got help and had the courage to stand up for myself. It took many therapy sessions and treatment to move forward in my life. I just wish that everyone that goes through this can get the support that that they need rather than a jail sentence.

Thank you from your time

D.C.



State of Connecticut

**DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES**

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**Testimony of Deborah Del Prete Sullivan,  
Legal Counsel/Executive Assistant Public Defender  
Office of Chief Public Defender**

**Select Committee on Children-February 23, 2010-Public Hearing**

**Raised Bill No. 153, An Act Providing a Safe Harbor for Exploited Children**

The Office of Chief Public Defender supports passage of Raised Bill No. 153, An Act Providing a Safe Harbor for Exploited Children. Current law provides that any person charged with prostitution has an affirmative defense that he/she was "coerced" to commit the offense. However, in order for a person to assert the affirmative defense, the person must proceed to trial and assert it there.

This proposed legislation creates a "presumption" that a person was coerced to prostitute themselves if the person so charged was under the age of 17 years. Current law provides that a person under the age of 17 is a juvenile. Although the legislation eliminates the need to assert an affirmative defense at trial for persons under the age of 17, a juvenile can still be arrested. As a result, notwithstanding the presumption, this legislation will not change the fact that the juvenile will be arrested and possibly be detained.

Once arrested and proceeding in the juvenile justice system, the legislation does not indicate whether the prostitution charge against the juvenile will ultimately be dismissed if the presumption is not overcome.

This office would request that if such a presumption is legislated, that no juvenile be arrested. In addition, this office would also request that the presumption be extended to a person who is 17 years of age. Currently, a 17 year old is presumed to be a Youthful Offender and not an adult if charged with prostitution. This office requests consideration of these issues and clarification as the bill moves towards passage and offers its assistance in gaining passage of this legislation. Thank you for raising this bill for a public hearing.



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF VICTIM ADVOCATE  
505 HUDSON STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106

Michelle S. Cruz, Esq.  
State Victim Advocate

Testimony of Michelle Cruz, Esq., State Victim Advocate  
Select Committee on Children  
Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Good afternoon Senator Musto, Representative Urban and distinguished members of the Select Committee on Children. For the record, my name is Michelle Cruz and I am the Victim Advocate for the State of Connecticut. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in SUPPORT of:

**Raised Senate Bill No. 153, An Act Providing a Safe Harbor for Exploited Children**

Connecticut is uniquely placed as it is a throughway between New York and Boston and has the potential to become a breeding ground for human traffickers. As individual states adopt new legislation to combat human trafficking, Connecticut must remain vigilant so that we not only address the human trafficking problem in our state, but also deter human traffickers from moving into our state to begin with.

The majority of victims in human trafficking cases are woman and young girls. It is important to first identify victims as victims, and further, work closely with trafficking victims—many of whom don't speak English—to procure their help in prosecuting their captors. Additionally, there must be support and services in place to ensure that trafficking victims are able to cope with the horrors they've been through and get back on their feet.

Raised Senate Bill No. 153 is a reasonable step to a growing national problem. Those individuals who are identified as victims, through the investigation, should be treated as victims and not as defendants. To subject a trafficking victim to an arrest and prosecution only compounds the harm and trauma experienced by the victim. We believe through investigation law enforcement should be able to identify those individuals who are truly trafficking victims and not seek prosecution. However, the proposed affirmative defense should be available for those individuals who were not identified initially through the initial investigation as trafficking victims, as is often the case.

Thank you for consideration of my testimony. I urge the committee to support the proposal.

Very Sincerely,

Michelle Cruz, Esq.  
State Victim Advocate



Pg 7  
Line 14

*In 2001, a family member of mine, who was fifteen at the time, was recruited into prostitution. A young teenage girl that left us as an innocent child came back to us with a damaged soul. My family and I had never heard of commercial sexual exploitation. The thought of prostitution, never crossed our minds as it had never touched our lives. We learned very quickly, and it was heart wrenching.*

*A caring detective recognized her face from a missing poster while she was being processed for solicitation for prostitution and quickly contacted us. We were by her side within hours. When she came out of the room to greet us, I was overwhelmed at the change that I saw in her. I had seen her several weeks prior from the date that she went missing and I couldn't believe my eyes. She was gone for 33 days and she had aged, she looked different, as if something was not there, something was missing.*

*I learned quickly about prostitution and what the victimization was that these women and girls had to endure, however this did not prepare us in any way for what the experience would be in assisting her. Services were not available to her that would assist her in any way of getting the help she so desperately needed.*

*She left us as an innocent child and was returned to us with an extremely damaged mind, body, and spirit. We are a white middle-class family and we never imagined this could happen to us. Her battle to get out of this life continued for 8 more years.*

Well that was many years ago and I have been educated quite a bit more since then. The trauma, pain, hurt and degradation she suffered compelled me to find a way to educate communities about what our children are up against and how we can protect them. Us, the adults, the caregivers, have to be empowered with the knowledge of what to look for in our children, how to react and what steps to take if your child has been a victim. It is imperative to listen and be non-judgmental towards the child if this occurs. These children need specialized services available to them that must include mental health and trauma therapy. If gone untreated they become the women we have served over the past nine years in Hartford and Waterbury Community Court.

The Paul & Lisa Program believes that if emotional, physical and mental health problems are treated properly, this population has a real chance to redirect their lives and see themselves as valuable human beings rather than worthless objects.

Sexual and other physical violence is the normative experience for women who engage in prostitution. This has been clinically noted, and reported by others. "Violence from customers is aimed not only at punishment and control of women, but at establishing their worthlessness and invisibility" (Dworkin, 1997; Patterson, 1982). "The hatred and contempt is ultimately internalized by these women resulting in extremely long-lasting self-hatred and lack of self-respect" (Barry, 1995; Dworkin, 1997; Hunter, 1994; MacKinnon, 1993). Many professionals who work with this population have not been trained to see that those who prostitute are marginalized human beings with a lack of resources, or to recognize and assess the unique factors that demand these women to receive understanding and care specialized to fit their overall physical, emotional and mental health needs.

I urge the Select Committee on Children to bring this bill to vote with the General Assembly. I highly recommend that the bill identifies these children as victims and requires these much needed comprehensive services be available for these children.

Shaleen Silva  
Executive Director  
The Paul & Lisa Program Inc.

CONNECTICUT  
VOICES  
FOR CHILDREN

Pg 5  
Line 7

Testimony Regarding S.B. 153 – An Act Providing a Safe Harbor for Exploited Children  
Cari Carson, Annemarie Hillman, and Alexandra Dufresne, J.D.  
Select Committee on Children  
February 23, 2010

Dear Senator Musto, Representative Urban, and distinguished Members of the Select Committee on Children:

We are testifying today on behalf of Connecticut Voices for Children, a research-based public education and advocacy organization that works statewide to promote the well-being of Connecticut's children, youth, and families.

Connecticut Voices for Children *supports* S.B. 153, with revisions as attached.

**I. Child prostitution occurs in Connecticut.**

Each year, an estimated 100,000 to 300,000 adolescents are involved in prostitution in the United States.<sup>1</sup> These children usually enter into prostitution, on average, sometime between the ages of twelve and thirteen years old, and consequently enter a world of physical, sexual, emotional, and mental degradation.<sup>2</sup> These children are not just found in New York City or Boston, but exist in Connecticut as well. In January 2009, a multi-state trafficking ring exploiting as many as twenty women, including minors, was discovered and disbanded through the efforts of the Bridgeport, Milford, and Stratford Police Departments, as well as the FBI and Connecticut State Police.<sup>3</sup> Since April 2008, twenty-five Connecticut youth have been identified as victims of sex trafficking by the Department of Children and Families (DCF). Further information about the number of children involved in prostitution and sex trafficking is limited, due to a lack of reporting requirements on this issue.

In general, after interviewing several assistant public defenders, child welfare staff, and service providers throughout the state of Connecticut, it seems that Connecticut law enforcement and government officials do tend to treat these children as victims rather than as criminals. We have found minimal evidence to suggest that prostituted children are often found guilty of prostitution or given harsh sentences. However, although rare, Connecticut law does allow child victims of commercial sexual exploitation to be prosecuted for the crime of prostitution.

**II. Connecticut Voices for Children supports the intent of S.B. 153; we believe children engaged in prostitution are *victims* of sexual exploitation and not criminals on account of their prostitution.** The majority of U.S. children involved in prostitution are runaways and are past

<sup>1</sup> Shelby Schwartz, "Harboring Concerns: The Problematic Conceptual Reorientation of Juvenile Prostitution Adjudication in New York," *Columbia Journal of Gender and Law* (2008), 2.

<sup>2</sup> Kate Brittle, "Child Abuse by Another Name: Why the Child Welfare System is the Best Mechanism in Place to Address the Problem of Juvenile Prostitution," *Hofstra Law Review* (2008), 2.

<sup>3</sup> US Department of Justice, "Leader of Expansive Multi-State Sex-Trafficking Ring Sentenced," *Drug Week* (January 9, 2009).

victims of sexual abuse, physical abuse, neglect, and/or other forms of trauma.<sup>4</sup> These youth are manipulated by adults to engage in sexual acts in return for a fee and are coerced into continued prostitution by sophisticated psychological, emotional, and physical means.<sup>5</sup> As these children are victims of sexual and trafficking crimes, and due to their age would also be eligible for treatment under Connecticut's child welfare system,<sup>6</sup> Connecticut Voices for Children believes that these children should be treated as victims, rather than criminals. Thus, we support the intent of SB 153, which aims to make it more difficult for minors to be prosecuted for this crime and also hopes to connect these children with services. Yet, we would prefer that an alternative version of the bill be passed (see attached), which we believe better prevents children from being prosecuted for prostitution and more closely connects these vulnerable children to needed mental and physical health services.

**III. S.B. 153, as written, states that youth ages 16 and under who are being prosecuted on prostitution charges will be presumed to have been coerced into prostitution. The child will be presumed to be a victim of trafficking of persons. In existing statutes, a child can use the fact that they were coerced as an affirmative defense, i.e., the burden of proof lies on the child and her attorneys to prove that she was coerced.<sup>7</sup> S.B. 153 simply changes the law so that the *presumption* is that she was coerced, and the opposing party has the burden of proving that the child was *not* coerced.**

**IV. While S.B. 153 attempts to protect exploited youth from adjudication, the bill is insufficient to truly protect and serve these vulnerable children. Under S.B. 153, a child may legally still be arrested, detained pre-trial, charged, and prosecuted for prostitution. Arresting a child for prostitution and possibly detaining her is traumatic for the child and conveys that she is somehow "bad" and "criminal." It is also possible for the presumption to be rebutted and a child adjudicated delinquent for prostitution. While children accused of prostitution would be presumed to be victims of trafficking under S.B. 153, the bill does not set forth how these children would receive services for trafficking victims and does not prohibit further prosecution.**

**V. While Connecticut laws do allow children to be prosecuted for prostitution, in practice prostituted youth are most often diverted from the court system and are often referred to or provided with needed social services. Amending S.B. 153 as attached would bring Connecticut statutes in line with Connecticut's already progressive approach on-the-ground to serving these youth. Currently, DCF and local police departments divert and serve prostituted children. On January 13, 2010, DCF adopted a protocol to identify and serve child victims of**

<sup>4</sup> Urbina, Ian. *For Runaways on the Street, Sex Bays Survival*. New York Times, Oct. 27, 2009. Section A, pg. 1.

<sup>5</sup> Kate Brittle, "Child Abuse by Another Name: Why the Child Welfare System is the Best Mechanism in Place to Address the Problem of Juvenile Prostitution," *Hofstra Law Review* (2008), 6, 7.

<sup>6</sup> Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 17a-93. Available at: <http://cga.ct.gov/2009/pub/chap319a.htm>

<sup>7</sup> Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 53a-82. Reads: "(a) A person is guilty of prostitution when such person engages or agrees or offers to engage in sexual conduct with another person in return for a fee. (b) In any prosecution for an offense under this section, it shall be an affirmative defense that the actor was coerced into committing such offense by another person in violation of section 53a-192a. (c) Prostitution is a class A misdemeanor." Available at: <http://cga.ct.gov/2009/pub/chap952.htm>.

Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 53a-192a. Available at: <http://cga.ct.gov/2009/pub/chap952.htm>.

trafficking.<sup>8</sup> Under the protocol, law enforcement officials suspecting that a child is a victim of commercial sexual exploitation inform DCF. A DCF social worker and law enforcement officers collaborate to investigate the situation, and the child is evaluated at a local hospital. DCF makes a determination as to the most appropriate next steps, the child's placement needs, and the child's service needs. In other cases, some local police departments have been reported to directly refer children to services.

**VI. In order to codify Connecticut's existing practices and to address the current limitations of S.B. 153, we propose three revisions to the bill. (See proposed revision attached.)**

**Firstly, we recommend that the bill directly state that no child shall be prosecuted for a prostitution offense under Connecticut's penal code. This will ensure that child sex trafficking victims will not endure the further trauma and stigmatization of arrest for prostitution and possible detention.**

**Secondly, we believe that the wording of the bill should more directly link child sex trafficking victims to the services and protections provided to victims of human trafficking, rather than just identifying these children as victims of human trafficking. Children who have been commercially sexually exploited are better served by meeting the various needs of victims of trafficking: mental health services, safe housing, medical care, and others.<sup>9</sup> Our version of the bill directly states that child sex trafficking victims should receive the same services and protections awarded to trafficking victims.**

**Thirdly, we would like to see the benefits of the law applied to all minors under the age of eighteen, instead of seventeen as proposed in SB 153. We believe that including all prostituted children under the age of eighteen would more closely bring this bill into line with other Connecticut laws. A seventeen-year-old Connecticut youth cannot vote, serve on a jury, get a marriage license on his or her own, or enter a casino. Moreover, the Department of Children and Families, which would be the likely social service provider for child victims of sex trafficking, states that youth can receive services from its agency until age eighteen.<sup>10</sup> As of 2012, Connecticut's Raise the Age law will also acknowledge that children under the age of eighteen should be treated as juveniles.<sup>11</sup> Amending this bill to apply to all commercially sexually exploited children under the age of eighteen would be more consistent with Connecticut's current laws.**

Based on our research, the actions of Connecticut's police force, child welfare agency, and justice system have shown Connecticut to be a leader in the treatment of commercially sexually exploited children as victims, not criminals. By codifying Connecticut's historical non-prosecution of child sex trafficking victims and active provision of services to these children, we hope to ensure that child

<sup>8</sup> Connecticut Department of Children and Families. *Intake and Investigative Response to Human Trafficking of Children*. Policy 31-10-6.1. Available online at: <http://www.ct.gov/dcf/cwp/vicw.asp?a=2639&Q=453920>.

<sup>9</sup> Kate Brittle, "Child Abuse by Another Name: Why the Child Welfare System is the Best Mechanism in Place to Address the Problem of Juvenile Prostitution," *Hofstra Law Review* (2008), 11.

<sup>10</sup> Connecticut General Statutes Section 17a-93. Available at: <http://cga.ct.gov/2009/pub/chap319a.htm>

<sup>11</sup> Connecticut General Statutes Section 46b-120. Available at: [http://cga.ct.gov/2009/pub/chap815t.htm\\_Sec46b-120.htm](http://cga.ct.gov/2009/pub/chap815t.htm_Sec46b-120.htm).

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victims of commercial sexual exploitation throughout the state, now and in the future, will have the same beneficial access to social services rather than punishment.

Accordingly, Connecticut Voices for Children supports the proposed bill, S.B. 153, with the reservation that it be amended as in the attached revision.

CONNECTICUT  
VOICES  
FOR CHILDREN

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Deletions are in brackets.  
Additions are underlined.

**AN ACT PROVIDING A SAFE HARBOR FOR EXPLOITED CHILDREN.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Section 53a-82 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective October 1, 2010):

- (a) A person is guilty of prostitution when such person engages or agrees or offers to engage in sexual conduct with another person in return for a fee.
- (b) In any prosecution for an offense under this section, it shall be an affirmative defense that the actor was coerced into committing such offense by another person in violation of section 53a-192a.
- [(c) In any prosecution of a person under the age of seventeen for an offense under this section, there shall be a presumption that the actor was coerced into committing such offense by another person in violation of section 53a-192a.]
- (c) No person under the age of eighteen shall be prosecuted for an offense under this section.
- (d) Any person under the age of eighteen who engages or agrees or offers to engage in sexual conduct with another person in return for a fee shall be eligible for all protections and services provided to victims of human trafficking.

[ (d) ] Prostitution is a class A misdemeanor.

From: cparniawski@comcast.net  
To: "Elizabeth giannaros" <Elizabeth.giannaros@cga.ct.gov>  
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2010 3:43:52 PM GMT -05:00 US/Canada Eastern  
Subject: Testimony on human trafficking

Dear Rep. Diane Urban,

I am responding to your request for testimony on the exploitation of children through human trafficking portals.

I am a registered nurse for over 35 years and a trained cultural diversity trainer. My formal training has been with the National Multicultural Institute in Washington, DC. NMCI was founded in 1983 and has responded to the nation's needs for services, knowledge and skills in the field of multiculturalism. They work with service providers, advocates, and law enforcement personnel to eliminate human trafficking in US and worldwide. They have developed a web portal to supply information on human trafficking issues which covers cases all over the US and globally.

[www.humantraffickingsearch.net](http://www.humantraffickingsearch.net)

As an instructor at a school of nursing part of the program is devoted to cultural awareness and the ability to recognize human trafficking victims. Nurses can first respond to recognize this situation.

The US government in 2008 coordinated efforts which involved several federal agencies and approximately \$23 million in FY 2008 for domestic programs to boost anti-trafficking law enforcement efforts to identify and protect victims of trafficking and raise awareness (US State Dept. Trafficking in Person Report, June 2009).

<http://gvnet.com/humantrafficking/USA.htm>

Why as a State would we not want to acknowledge that the issue exists? How can we continue to pride ourselves as a "free nation" if we do not want laws in place to prohibit modern day slavery? The nursing profession has always been an advocate for public health. We have panicked about the swine flu. Why would we not respond to individuals/children being put in these situations against their will?

Sincerely,

Charlotte Parniawski, MSN, CNE  
Nursing Instructor  
Bridgeport Hospital School of Nursing

My name is Raymond Bechard, I'm the author of the book, *Unspeakable: The Hidden Truth Behind The World's Fastest Growing Crime*, which is an expose of underage prostitution and child trafficking. I also served as a member of the Connecticut Legislature's Domestic Violence in Immigrant Communities Task Force.

In my work as a human rights advocate, specializing in the fight against underage prostitution and human trafficking, I have come to realize there is an urgent need to aggressively address the issue of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, or CSEC, here in Connecticut.

To clarify, the US Department of Justice defines CSEC as "Crimes of a sexual nature committed against youthful victims (younger than 18 years old) primarily or entirely for financial or economic reasons. These crimes include, for example, trafficking for sexual purposes, prostitution, sex tourism, mail-order-bride trade and early marriage, pornography, stripping and sexual performances."

For most, it is easy to believe that CSEC crimes are not prevalent or widespread domestically. However, according to the FBI, the average age of females entering prostitution in the United States is 13, and for males it may be even younger. The number of CSEC victims, especially here in Connecticut, is extremely difficult to calculate because it is a hidden crime - often not recognized by criminal justice.

However, those who work closely with these victims understand the explosion of CSEC crimes taking place in our society. One of these dedicated people is Kelley O'Connell, Sergeant Detective with the Boston Police Department's Human Trafficking Force. Recently, Detective O'Connell summarized the expansion of CSEC crimes by stating, "The Girl is the New Drug."

"The girl is the new Drug." What she is saying, is that for many in the criminal realm, it is far more profitable and far less dangerous to deal in prostitution - selling human beings - than it is to sell drugs.

This is true for several reasons. And these reasons also explain the explosion in CSEC crimes across America and here in Connecticut.

#### Reason #1

**Lesser threat of Prosecution.** Unlike the investigatory and prosecutorial machines that have been long established to fight against drug crimes, there is very little motivation or institutional awareness for those in the criminal justice system to investigate and prosecute CSEC, human trafficking, or prostitution crimes.

**Reason #2**

Reduced suspicion. Having possession of a large stash of drugs is itself a serious crime. Having two fifteen year old girls with you, is not. In other words, it is very easy to move the "product" being sold without being caught.

**Reason #3**

There is no product to buy. Unlike drugs, which must be resupplied and purchased every time a criminal dealer makes a sale, young girls can be sold 10, 15, 20 times a day - at a 100 percent profit each time.

**Reason #4**

Prostitution is becoming more 'mainstream' in our society. It is seen more often as a lifestyle choice or victimless crime. This perception is often reinforced with terms like "High End Call Girl," or "Pimp My Ride." This gradual removal of prostitution's taboos have made it more acceptable for younger and younger girls to be recruited into this abuse. And this is an important distinction to make. Underage prostitution is pedophilia. It is a sex crime. Simply because there is money changing hands does not make it "just prostitution." Paid pedophilia is just as wrong, just as abhorrent, and should be just as illegal, as any other sex crime against a child.

There are many other reasons for the increasing number of CSEC crimes, but the last I would like to site is Craigslist and the Online Availability of victims. Gone are the days when most victims are made to walk the streets, waiting for cars to pull up on the corner. While this still occurs every night in towns across Connecticut, the vast majority of prostitution here is occurring online. The internet has further sterilized this form of modern day slavery by making it possible to buy and sell young victims with total anonymity. Perpetrators use Craigslist and their cell phones to have a victim delivered to their home or hotel room within minutes. Today, finding a young person to perform sex for money is easier than ordering a pizza.

The combination of these factors has created a perfect storm against CSEC victims in Connecticut.

That is why I not only urge passage of S.B. 153, but that language be added which reflects legal standards similar to Federal law, specifically those set forth by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 - or TVPA. TVPA goes beyond the legal test of "coercion" as is the current Connecticut standard, making illegal commercial sex acts which are "induced by force, fraud, or coercion or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age"

In short, this standard adds the dynamics of 'force' and 'fraud' to those methods by which a young person can be induced to perform commercial sex acts. It also states very clearly that anyone 17 years of age or younger is protected within the legal safe harbor.

In conclusion, CSEC crimes and the inability for criminal justice in Connecticut to prosecute them are best exemplified by the Federal case of *United States vs. Dennis Paris*. Tried in Federal Court here in Hartford, it remains one of the largest cases ever tried within TVPA. In this case, multiple victims, some as young as 14, were involved in underage prostitution in and around Hartford. These victims were not kidnapped. They were not smuggled in from foreign countries. They were from Vermont, New Hampshire, and some were recruited out of Connecticut high schools.

We have a long way to go in fighting CSEC crimes in Connecticut. The effort to protect these young victims will include building awareness in law enforcement, schools, and our greater community. It will also involve passing and enforcing new laws which ensure the prosecution of those who exploit and abuse young people by promoting sexual services for money AND those on whom the sexual acts are performed. Known as 'pimps' and 'johns,' both are equally guilty of commercial sexual exploitation.

This new fight against an ever increasing crime which has long victimized our young people begins here - with our lawmakers taking courageous steps of leadership.

Please do not allow this opportunity to slip away. Right now, these victims are here, in Connecticut. They are in grave danger. And they're waiting for your help.

Thank you.



**State of Connecticut**  
**DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**Testimony of the Division of Criminal Justice**

**S.B. No. 153 (RAISED) An Act Providing a Safe Harbor for Exploited Children**

*Select Committee on Children*  
*February 23, 2010*

The Division of Criminal Justice respectfully recommends the Committee take no action on S.B. No. 153, An Act Providing a Safe Harbor for Exploited Children. While the Division appreciates the intent of this legislation and the efforts of those who work so diligently to identify and assist the victims of human trafficking, the bill seeks to address a problem that does not exist in the State of Connecticut.

First, to be perfectly clear: the Division of Criminal Justice is not in the business of prosecuting the innocent victims of human trafficking or any other crime. We would note that this is not even implied by the proponents of the bill. Although a "fact sheet" distributed on this bill does cite instances where adults were prosecuted for crimes related to the prostitution of children, there is no indication whatsoever that prosecution of the children victims in any of the cited cases was ever even contemplated. Again, to be perfectly clear: if the proponents of this bill or any other individual is aware of any instance where the innocent victim of trafficking has been prosecuted for a criminal offense we would respectfully ask that they inform the Division immediately so that we may review the specific case and take any necessary remedial action.

The bill also could have unintended consequences. Effectively, it would apply solely to 16-year-olds who are charged with prostitution since a child under the age of 16 cannot legally consent to *any* form of sexual activity, including an act of prostitution, and thus cannot be legally prosecuted for prostitution in Connecticut. That said the bill would undermine the ability of the criminal justice system to properly respond in the very rare instance where a 16-year-old might be arrested for prostitution. As a result of the "Raise the Age" legislation, the 16-year-old would be referred to the Superior Court for Juvenile Matters where the case would likely be resolved through the provision of the services and/or treatment necessary to address the child's behavior and not the sanctions associated with the adult court. This bill would only create an additional and unnecessary hurdle to getting the services provided in such a case.

In conclusion, the Division appreciates the intent of S.B. No. 153 and the efforts of those who work to serve victims of trafficking, but for the aforementioned reasons we believe this bill is not needed. We would respectfully request no action.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kevin T. Kane  
Chief State's Attorney



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF VICTIM ADVOCATE  
505 HUDSON STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106

Michelle S. Cruz, Esq.  
State Victim Advocate

Testimony of Michelle Cruz, Esq., State Victim Advocate  
Select Committee on Children  
Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Good afternoon Senator Musto, Representative Urban and distinguished members of the Select Committee on Children. For the record, my name is Michelle Cruz and I am the Victim Advocate for the State of Connecticut. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT** of:

**Raised Senate Bill No. 153, An Act Providing a Safe Harbor for Exploited Children**

Connecticut is uniquely placed as it is a thoroughway between New York and Boston and has the potential to become a breeding ground for human traffickers. As individual states adopt new legislation to combat human trafficking, Connecticut must remain vigilant so that we not only address the human trafficking problem in our state, but also deter human traffickers from moving into our state to begin with.

The majority of victims in human trafficking cases are woman and young girls. It is important to first identify victims as victims, and further, work closely with trafficking victims—many of whom don't speak English—to procure their help in prosecuting their captors. Additionally, there must be support and services in place to ensure that trafficking victims are able to cope with the horrors they've been through and get back on their feet.

Raised Senate Bill No. 153 is a reasonable step to a growing national problem. Those individuals who are identified as victims, through the investigation, should be treated as victims and not as defendants. To subject a trafficking victim to an arrest and prosecution only compounds the harm and trauma experienced by the victim. We believe through investigation law enforcement should be able to identify those individuals who are truly trafficking victims and not seek prosecution. However, the proposed affirmative defense should be available for those individuals who were not identified initially through the initial investigation as trafficking victims, as is often the case.

Thank you for consideration of my testimony. I urge the committee to support the proposal.

Very Sincerely,

Michelle Cruz, Esq.  
State Victim Advocate

Paul & Lisa Statement for: Safe Harbor for Trafficked Children

My Name is Denise Holloman, I am representing the Paul and Lisa Program, Inc. located in Essex, CT. Our organization has been the leading organization in Connecticut for 30 years working with commercially sexually exploited women and children. I have been fortunate to have run the Women's Holistic Health Education Program (an alternative to incarceration for women arrested for prostitution) in Hartford and Waterbury Community Court five of the nine years since its implementation back in 1999.

Statistics from our assessment process have shown that, 95 percent of the women we have worked with have been sexually abused as children and grow up to perpetuate the abuse by being coerced by pimps or their boyfriends into the life of prostitution. Most of them began prostituting in their teens as a means to secure a relationship only to be victimized again by the one they love. As they become older, selling their bodies assists in supporting their drug addiction. Because of their past frame of reference, these women look for love and acceptance in all the wrong places.

Over the course of the years I have worked with a number of participants who have started prostituting in their teens. Because there were no laws on the books at that time to help this young teen, she suffered from mental health issues, unsafe housing, abuse and trauma from her lifestyle that continued into adulthood. She could have benefited as well as many of the women I have had the pleasure of working with.

Our agency strongly supports the **Safe Harbor for Trafficked Children** bill. These children need to be protected and referred to the comprehensive services necessary to reframe their thinking so they can have a chance to become productive members of the community. If this bill was in effect when some of the women were children and were arrested came through our program, perhaps the victimization would have stopped sooner.

**Now I'd like to read a personal testimony from the former Executive Director of The Paul and Lisa Program, Shaleen Silva.**

Good Afternoon Senator Musto, Representative Urban and members of the Select Committee on Children:

My name is Nicole von Oy and I am here in support of S.B. 153 "An Act Providing a Safe Harbor for Exploited Children." I want to thank you for calling this hearing on such an important issue.

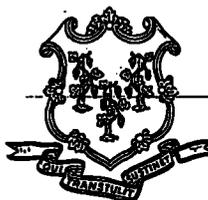
For almost a year I had the privilege of working for the Paul & Lisa Program and facilitating a program called My Life, My Choice. In that program, I was working with girls in group homes and residential facilities educating them and giving them the tools they needed to keep themselves safe and recognize signs of sexual exploitation of children.

In a few of the homes I facilitated in, I came across girls who were willing to share their stories with me who at one point were involved in prostitution/human trafficking because they were looking for someone to love them; they were lured, coerced, or forced into it or put into it by their parents. These girls didn't want to be involved nor did they ever want to get in trouble if caught, although sometimes they wished they would get caught so they would be saved. Many times, girls are leery about running to the police because they are taught by their traffickers to fear the police; that the police will do nothing but hurt them and send them to jail. Often times, this fear is reinforced when they are arrested (by no fault of the police except doing their job) and put in detention centers which often times does nothing but continue to traumatize a girl and make them runaway from the facilities right back to the person that is exploiting them.

Victims of sexual exploitation are frequently processed as juvenile delinquents or adult prostitutes. Children who are arrested for prostitution are trained by their pimps to lie and will almost always have a rehearsed story to tell the authorities. Many times the girls are provided with an excellent false id resulting in their registration in the arrest records as an adult which could follow them for life until it is corrected by someone that recognizes they are a minor.

Those children who are identifiable as minors, may not be arrested for child prostitution per say, but often time are charged with a delinquent act either for prostitution related activities or for a related offense such as: loitering, being out past curfew, drug possession or habitual running away. Not every officer is consistent with which the way they make arrests. One officer may arrest for child prostitution while another may try to give a girl a "break" and charge her with a lesser offense. In any event, no matter what the girl is being arrested for, being arrested for something they have no control over is extremely shameful, degrading and humiliating and adds to the pain they are already being subjected to. These children deserve to be referred for services and given the help they need to live a meaningful and productive life. This will only begin to happen with this law and awareness of the issue. Through this public hearing, the law making process, and efforts of advocates and constituents, the "Safe Harbor" bill will effectively raise awareness amongst law enforcement, judicial officials, social service professionals and the general public that minors in prostitution are victims foremost who require treatment and care to prevent re-traumatization.

I would like to end my testimony with testimony from a young girl I met through my work at Paul & Lisa and a girl I continue to mentor. Through much help, courage and perseverance she has changed her life around and took advantage of an opportunity that was given to her to go to college to pursue her dream of becoming a social worker:

Pg. 1  
Line 1

## State of Connecticut

## SENATE

STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

SENATOR ROBERT J. KANE  
DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER  
THIRTY-SECOND DISTRICT

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RANKING MEMBER  
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MEMBER  
APPROPRIATIONS  
COMMERCE

February 23, 2010

*SB 153 An Act Providing a Safe Harbor for Exploited Children*

Good afternoon, Senator Musto, Representative Urban, Senator Boucher, Representative Hovey, and members of the committee. My name is Rob Kane, and I am the Senator for the 32<sup>nd</sup> district. I come before you this afternoon to testify in support of SB 153, An Act Providing a Safe Harbor for Exploited Children, and to strongly urge this committee to pass the bill.

The tragic news we read or see on a daily basis tends to harden us. With few exceptions, almost nothing truly shocks us anymore. But one of those exceptions is stories about children being sexually abused or exploited. Every time I hear of such a horrific crime, I am filled with a variety of emotions. I am disgusted that there are people who would prey on our innocent children. I am saddened that our society has to deal with such crimes. I am shocked that we do not punish these abusers more harshly. I am heartbroken for the lost innocence of the child. And I am angered that there are not sufficient programs or policies in place to help heal these children, to help repair the damage done to them.

It is the desire to help these abused children get the assistance they need that spurred me to propose SB 153. The bill, as I proposed, creates a presumption that any minor child who is engaged in prostitution was either forced or enticed to do so. It offers protection to a minor from criminal prosecution for actions that they had no choice but to commit. But my original proposal went well beyond the scope of this bill. It required the courts to direct the child into existing social service programs that could offer assistance in safe and secure housing, crisis intervention, counseling, and other community based services. It sought to ensure that there was a safety net in place so that these troubled children did not fall through the cracks of society. It is not enough to just let the minors

Pg. 1  
Line 1

## State of Connecticut

### SENATE

STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**SENATOR ROBERT J. KANE**  
DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER  
THIRTY-SECOND DISTRICT

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February 23, 2010

**SB 153 *An Act Providing a Safe Harbor for Exploited Children***

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go free, to return them to a situation that probably gave rise to their crimes and troubles in the first place. We need to do more. We need to give them a chance to rebuild their lives.

This bill, modeled on a similar proposal passed into law in New York two years ago, seeks to address what is tragically an all too common problem. Some experts estimate that about 100,000 children, many as young as 11, are exploited through prostitution every year in the United States. So while we may sit here today and think that such a crime cannot happen here, we are wrong. It can, and does, happen. And it happens far more often than we would like to admit to ourselves.

As members of a just society, we should be committed to ensuring that young victims of sexual exploitation are given every possible opportunity to break free from emotional manipulation and abuse. The first logical step is passing a state law that recognizes the need to protect, not punish, children and young teens who are apprehended for prostitution. The bill before you today is a start, but it does not go far enough. I ask you to expand the bill to provide the referral to existing social services providers that were eliminated from my original proposal. These exploited and abused children need our help, and deserve every chance to reclaim their lives. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of the bill, and I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.



**FEBRUARY 23, 2010 TESTIMONY OF  
THE CONNECTICUT JUVENILE JUSTICE ALLIANCE  
FOR THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN  
REGARDING**

**SB 156: AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRANSFER OF EDUCATIONAL CREDITS  
SB 153: AN ACT PROVIDING A SAFE HARBOR FOR EXPLOITED CHILDREN**

Senator Musto, Representative Urban, and distinguished Members of the Select Committee on Children: This testimony is submitted by Lara Herscovitch, Senior Policy Analyst at the Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance (Alliance). The Alliance is a statewide, private non-profit organization that works to reduce the number of children and youth entering the juvenile and criminal justice system, and advocates a safe, effective and fair system for those involved.

The Alliance supports Senate Bill 156 which would require Connecticut school districts to accept the academic credits that children earn within the Department of Children and Families school district (Unified School District #2) in the same way that they must accept credits from any youth re-entering the district from another school, including the Department of Correction's Unified School District #1. We know it has also been a problem for kids not getting academic credit for work done while in juvenile detention facilities and we would support statutory changes to close that loophole.

The proposed change for USD #2 academic credit is non-controversial; it is simply correcting an oversight. Without a guarantee of credit acceptance, students can return to their home school from a long-term placement thinking they have earned enough credits to be a junior, and instead be told that their credits won't transfer and they are still freshmen. This unfair situation creates frustration and a likelihood of dropout – which increases the risk of further delinquency.

The Alliance is also in support of Senate Bill 153, the intent of which is to recognize that children engaged in prostitution are *victims* of sexual exploitation and not criminals. It aims to make it more difficult for minors to be prosecuted for this crime, and comes with the hope of connecting them with services – due to their age, they are eligible for care under Connecticut's child welfare system. The majority of U.S. children involved in prostitution are runaways and are past victims of sexual abuse, physical abuse, neglect, and other forms of trauma.<sup>1</sup> They are manipulated and coerced into prostitution by psychological, emotional, and physical means.<sup>2</sup>

Although Connecticut law enforcement and other officials do tend to divert these vulnerable children from the court system and refer them to needed social services, current law still allows for criminal prosecution. Under SB 153, a child could still legally be arrested, detained, charged, and prosecuted for prostitution. The Alliance supports language proposed today by Connecticut Voices for Children, which would strengthen SB 153 and better protect these vulnerable children by (1) directly stating that no child shall be prosecuted for a prostitution offense under Connecticut's penal code, (2) more directly linking child sex trafficking victims to services and protections, and (3) extending legal protections to all minors under the age of 18 (instead of 17 in SB 153).

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like additional information.

2470 Fairfield Avenue, Bridgeport CT 06605

203-579-2727

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<sup>1</sup> Urbina, Ian. *For Runaways on the Street, Sex Buys Survival*. New York Times, Oct. 27, 2009. Section A, pg. 1.

<sup>2</sup> Kate Brittle, "Child Abuse by Another Name: Why the Child Welfare System is the Best Mechanism in Place to Address the Problem of Juvenile Prostitution," *Hofstra Law Review* (2008), 6, 7.

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**From:** Maria C [mailto:mjecaputo@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sun 2/21/2010 11:30 PM  
**To:** Rep. Urban, Diana; Senator Meyer; Rep. Jarmoc, Karen; Sen. Boucher, Toni; Rep. Mioli, Joe  
**Subject:** Support HB 5041

Dear Member of the Select Committee on Children:

I am writing in support of HB 5041 (cross-reporting of child abuse and animal cruelty) and SB 153 (safe harbor for exploited children). Representatives of the Center for Youth Leadership at Brien McMahon High School, of which I am a member, will testify before your committee on Tuesday, February 23.

Our members have been working on both issues since 2007. We have led public awareness activities in southern Fairfield County, held discussions with survivors of human trafficking, and met with animal control officers and caseworkers from the Department of Children and Families. And our volunteer time with children who have experienced or witnessed abuse includes heartbreaking discussions about cruelty against animals.

I know you have a lot to do this session, but I cannot think of two more important pieces of legislation. Both will help promote the emotional and physical health of some of Connecticut's more vulnerable children and teens.

Thank you.

--Maria Caputo

From: Kearstyn Folsom [mailto:kearstynfolsom@yahoo.com]  
Sent: Sun 2/21/2010 10:42 PM  
To: Rep. Urban, Diana  
Subject:

Dear Member of the Select Committee on Children:

I am writing in support of HB 5041 (cross-reporting of child abuse and animal cruelty) and SB 153 (safe harbor for exploited children). Representatives of the Center for Youth Leadership at Brien McMahon High School, of which I am a member, will testify before your committee on Tuesday, February 23.

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Thank you.  
Kearstyn Folsom

February 23, 2010  
In support of HB No. 5041

I want to thank the Chairs and the Select Committee on Children for this opportunity to support HB 5041, an act concerning cross-reporting of animal abuse and child abuse and share the importance of considering a cross-reporting bill for the children and animals of Connecticut. My name is Kate Nicoll – and I am a clinical social worker and founder of nonprofit, Soul Friends, Inc. established in 2003 to promote the healing benefits of the human animal bond for children living with loss, illness, trauma and socio-emotional challenges.

Soul Friends, Inc is one of handful of centers across the country trained by the Animals and Society Institute of Washington, DC to provide specialized assessment and care to children and teens that have both witnessed and/or abused animals. This treatment modality, called Anicare, is a 10-12 session specialized psychotherapy program that integrates cognitive-behavioral theory , trauma informed practices and a specialized knowledge of the human- animal bond to help improve empathic responses and increase impulse control in youth . In research studies, in homes with domestic violence, the co-occurrence rate has been from 25% to 80% between child abuse and animal abuse. The concern for Connecticut children is that we have not been accurately screening those impacted by the link of animal abuse and domestic violence. We have not asked for cross-reporting procedures between child care agencies and animal welfare agencies which would improve service. Consideration of a cross-reporting bill could greatly improve the well-being of children and animals at risk for abuse and neglect.

Soul Friends has offered its expertise to the state Department of Children and Families in both formal and informal ways to increase their understanding of “the link” between domestic violence, animal abuse and child abuse.. Sadly, our nationally supported research effort to study the Anicare model was rejected by the DCF Internal Review Board for one identified concern that there were not enough cases. However, to share some good news, Soul Friends programs have been recognized informally by several area DCF offices for our specialized in treating children who have often failed traditional therapy, as well as those youth who have abused animals.

As encouraged by Results Based Accountability, we seem to have missed an opportunity to provide a low cost- high impact program to children suffering with the effects of domestic violence and animal abuse. The

benefits of instituting a cross-reporting bill is that it would begin to gather our own state's co-occurrence rates answering the "how many" question of RBA with the overall goal to improve the well-being and safety of children and animals impacted by domestic violence.

Our state is in a unique position to have multiple agencies with specialized knowledge, such as the Anicare program and Our Companions CT Safe Pet program for providing respite to animals in crisis - are ready willing and waiting to respond to the establishment of a cross-reporting bill. In recent legislative testimonies, DCF has also been open to incorporating a few suggested questions on home evaluations that would address the welfare and well-being of animals. The benefits of formalizing a cross-reporting initiative are that it would ensure that agencies would honor their duty to safeguard both children and animals identified at risk for abuse. As well, it would assure that the agencies involved are able to identify and define what constitutes neglect and/or abuse in both populations by agreeing on definitions and terminology. Allowing things to continue informally ensures that hundreds of animals and children often fall through the cracks - and will suffer at the hands of their abuser. Connecticut could put itself in a position to follow on the successes of West Virginia, Illinois, Colorado, California, Ohio and Virginia and clearly constitute the importance confidentiality and consent to share information among disciplines by instituting a cross-reporting bill to protect both children and animals.

A cross-reporting bill would change our response to the phone call to our office from a DCF worker asking what to do with a teenage boy, a witness to domestic violence, who had put a family dog in the microwave and turned it on for a few seconds. The animal did not die, but remained in the home - even after our strong suggestions to re-home the dog. The answer to this call is a cross-reporting bill - the animal's welfare would have been safeguarded and the young man could have received specialized services and decrease the likelihood for future abuse and violence.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kate Nicoll, MSW, LCSW  
Executive Director, Soul Friends Inc.  
300 Church Street, Suite 105  
Wallingford, CT 06492  
[www.soul-friends.org](http://www.soul-friends.org)



# AMERICAN HUMANE

*Protecting Children & Animals Since 1877*

Testimony by Allie Phillips, J.D., Vice President of Public Policy  
and Tracy Coppola, J.D., M.S.E.L., Legislative Analyst  
for the American Humane Association  
Before the Connecticut Select Committee on Children  
HB 5041—Cross-Reporting of Child Abuse and Animal Cruelty

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

On behalf of American Humane, the nation's oldest non-profit organization dedicated to protecting children and animals from maltreatment, we thank Co-Chair Urban for introducing House Bill 5041 and for scheduling the bill for a February 23 Select Committee on Children hearing.

Laws that support front-line professionals' ability to share information about suspected cases of both child and animal maltreatment are critically needed. American Humane believes that identifying all maltreatment occurring in the home is essential to ensuring family safety, strengthening families, and building humane communities. Cross-reporting is an effective way of accomplishing this.

Links between animal cruelty and interpersonal violence have been recognized throughout history. Reports have shown there is a significant overlap between child and animal maltreatment within the home and that, in particular, the identification of animal abuse and neglect in a home may serve as a reliable red flag for the presence of child abuse, and vice versa.

Cross-reporting laws encourage parallel referrals between employees of child protection agencies and humane enforcement and animal care and control, with the assumption that homes with one type of maltreatment may also be at a higher risk for additional forms of victimization. These laws allow for early intervention, or intervention in homes that may not otherwise have been identified, in order to prevent further harm. Cross-reporting also results in combining resources, engaging more diverse stakeholders, and preserving family safety.

Children who witness animal maltreatment may be traumatized and may be at additional risk for committing acts of animal abuse themselves. There may be situations in which pets may be targeted in order to ensure silence and compliance from children.

Moreover, when humane enforcement and animal care and control are the first-line responders into a home, they have a unique opportunity to observe an entire family for potential abuse or neglect. Rather than behind closed doors, animal maltreatment can occur in a family's yard where neighbors are more likely to see and report their concerns. Encouraging and educating humane enforcement and animal care and control to cross-report child maltreatment that they

suspect or observe will allow child protective services to respond more rapidly to a family in crisis.

Several states have enacted statutory language either mandating or permitting such reports without fear of violating confidentiality provisions. In addition, all states have laws that protect child abuse reporters from legal liability as long as reports are made in good faith. Cross reporting laws create ease and reporting amongst professionals.

American Humane recommends that, in considering passage of HB 5041, the Select Committee on Children should consider how to effectively bring law enforcement, animal care and control, and child protection agencies together to develop inter-agency relationships and collaboration. Specifically, we recommend consideration of the following:

- Requirement for humane enforcement and animal care and control and child protection agencies to enter a Memorandum of Understanding or similar agreement on cross-reporting;
- A provision requiring the agencies to cross-train on child and animal maltreatment and establish an agency policy;
- Enabling language encouraging humane enforcement, animal care and control and child protection agencies to make reasonable and appropriate reports of suspected child or animal maltreatment;
- Reports should be timely and consistent with any agency policy or state statute; and
- Civil and criminal immunity for anyone reporting in good faith.

Thank you, Chair Urban, for once again being a champion of human and animal welfare. Please let us know how else American Humane can be of assistance in cross-reporting efforts. American Humane is also a member of The National Link Coalition ([www.nationallinkcoalition.org](http://www.nationallinkcoalition.org)). Please consider the Coalition as an additional resource for these efforts as well as for Connecticut agencies desiring to connect with other Link communities.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Allie Phillips, J.D.  
*Vice President of Public Policy*

Tracy Coppola, J.D., M.S.E.L.  
*Legislative Analyst*

Testimony to the Committee on Children  
February 23, 2010

Pg 9  
Line 19

Animal Control Officer Karen Jones  
**Connecticut Municipal Animal Control Officers Association**  
Vice President

Senator Musto, Representative Urban, members of the Select Committee on Children, I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Municipal Animal Control Officers Association.

As currently proposed, we oppose **Raised Bill No. 5041** *{Cross-reporting of Child Abuse and Animal Cruelty}*

Although, in theory, this proposed bill would be very beneficial for the welfare of children and animals, it comes with many questions and concerns from an Animal Control Officer's point of view.

Being that the majority of Animal Control Officers work for a local Police Department directly or work closely with them, I would be surprised if any such officer would neglect reporting any suspected child abuse case. Regardless, if such reporting is to become mandatory, then there must be consideration for proper training and protocol.

The Department of Children and Families have well established guidelines and training for the reporting of suspected child abuse, but yet there is little proposed for the reporting of animal cruelty. Just as ACO's would need proper training, DCF workers would also need to be trained on the identification of suspected animal cruelty and abuse.

It is proposed that reporting of Animal Cruelty be done so, orally, to the Department of Agriculture no later than twelve hours and in writing, no later than 48 hours. DCF has an established 24 hour hot line. The Dept. of Agriculture is not open in the evenings or weekend hours. Without reporting such suspected animal abuse directly to local or state law enforcement agencies, so they in turn can notify the local ACO, animals, in need, may not get any type of help for days. In many circumstances, this may be too late.

If it is to be made mandatory for DCF workers to report animal abuse, what type of penalties would be instated for not reporting an incident? Although it may sound absurd, veterinarians are not even required to report cases of animal abuse.

The majority (if not all) of those already established as mandated reporters, are licensed or certified in their professions, yet Animal Control Officers have struggled for years to establish some sort of mandatory certification and education program through the state of CT. Yes, although we are law enforcement officers, there is no mandatory training or requirements to become an Animal Control Officer in the State of Connecticut.

Few people realize that by definition, Animal Control Officers are in a very dangerous grey area. ACO's are to carry out their duties "in the same manner as a Police Officer" (CGS 22-330), however, they are not considered Peace Officers, Public Safety, or Police Officers. According to current CT law 53a-167c, it is a Class C felony to assault or cause physical harm to a Police Officer, Special Police Officer, or a Peace Officer. This law goes on to include members of the Dept. of Corrections, Parole, Probation, Judicial, Motor Vehicles, Firefighters, EMT's, physicians and nurse staff, Dept. of Children and Families, volunteer canine search and rescue members, and most recently added, Public Transit employees. Where do Animal Control Officers fall?

If this proposed child/ animal abuse bill is to include the efforts on both parts of DCF and Animal Control, Animal Control Officers should, logically, at the very least, have the same protection against harm as a DCF worker. If ACO's are to have their responsibilities extended in an already dangerous occupation, shouldn't the State of Connecticut extend the laws that regard the assault of other employees to include Animal Control Officers as well?

Whether it is a State of CT oversight or the ignorance of public perception, Animal Control Officers have long suffered the ramifications of being in a law enforcement "limbo". ACO's put their lives on the line everyday, and deal with the same "bad" people and circumstances as other law enforcement officers yet they are not treated equally by any means. (Just this past fall, we tragically lost a dedicated animal control officer, who was also the president of our state animal control association, while she was conducting her duties).

If Animal Control Officers are to be given the added responsibility of mandated reporters of child abuse, then I can only hope that the State of Connecticut will update their laws to properly certify and define the occupation of an Animal Control Officer (to at least a Peace Officer) and to include Animal Control in the laws that protect various other state emergency personnel.

The Connecticut Municipal Animal Control Officers Association would like to offer their assistance, in anyway, to help transform this proposal to a productive bill that will best serve the welfare of both children and animals.

Pg 8  
Line 23

**From:** Schuyler Loth [mailto:sl0th.41@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sun 2/21/2010 8:37 PM  
**To:** Rep: Urban, Diana  
**Subject:**

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I know you have a lot to do this session, but I cannot think of two more important pieces of legislation. Both will help promote the emotional and physical health of some of Connecticut's more vulnerable children and teens.

Thank you.

Sky Loth

## **Animal Abuse and Child Maltreatment: The Need for Interagency Cross-Reporting**

### **The Evidence**

Researchers in such fields as psychology, child development, sociology, criminology, social work, law and veterinary medicine are addressing the multi-disciplinary nature of animals and family violence. Key findings include:

- If a child is cruel to animals, this may be an indicator that serious neglect and abuse have been inflicted on the child.
- Where serious animal abuse has occurred, other forms of family violence are often occurring and other family members may be at increased risk of abuse.
- Acts or threats of animal abuse may be used to coerce, control and intimidate women, children and elders to be silent about their abusive situations. These threats to pets often prevent women and children from leaving situations of domestic violence and sexual abuse.
- Childhood cruelty to animals has been linked to an increased likelihood of violent behaviors against other people both in childhood and in adulthood.
- When an animal has been abused there is a greater risk that adults and children in the home have been bitten or attacked by the pet.

*"A growing body of evidence suggests that bonds formed or broken with companion animals reverberate and resonate across the lifespan."*

*– Mary Renck Jalongo, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, author of "The World's Children and Their Companion Animals: Developmental and Educational Significance of the Child/Pet Bond"*

Policy and practice based on knowledge of The Link may enable professionals to intervene earlier in order to detect or prevent abuse to children, animals and vulnerable adults. To achieve this it is essential that arrangements for communication and cooperation between relevant statutory and voluntary organizations are developed and enhanced. With the compartmentalization of social services, these agencies have traditionally focused on distinct victim groups. As we begin to recognize that the ecologies of families include both people and pets, it is apparent that victims may experience many forms of overlapping maltreatment, and that interagency collaboration would be beneficial.

*"He opened the car door and ordered my daughter Christine to kick our dog Dusty out. When she refused, he told her...she could watch while he tortured and killed Dusty and dumped her off the side of the road, too. Then he said he would come home and kill me and Christine would be left alone with him. He raped Christine her first night alone in our new home while I was at work. She had just turned eight."*

*– Marsha Millikin, describing her family's experience in "Life and Death Inside the Cycles of Violence"*

Many studies indicate that animal maltreatment is part of a complex constellation of family violence. While not all children who harm animals go on to become violent adults, and while not all adult animal abusers necessarily harm their partners or children, compelling evidence is causing researchers and practitioners to view animal abuse as a "red flag" for other antisocial behaviors. Investigation and assessment are keys to determining whether there are any links between these forms of violence and possible risks to the safety and welfare of children, adults and animals.

**Phil Arkow**  
**Consultant – The Link**  
**American Humane Association**



Parliamentary Office of  
Science and Technology

# postnote

January 2010 Number 350

## PETS, FAMILIES AND INTERAGENCY WORKING

All agencies, professions and individuals who have contact with children have a duty to safeguard them.<sup>1</sup> Government guidance has highlighted the need for agencies to work together and share information to achieve this aim. It has been suggested that organisations that work with animals should be included in the safeguarding agenda on the basis that there may be an association between cruelty to animals and family violence. This POSTnote examines the evidence base for this assumption, and the rationale for cross-reporting between different agencies.

### Background

There is growing interest in the possible relationships between cruelty to animals and violence towards people.<sup>2</sup> For instance, animal cruelty sometimes occurs as part of a constellation of family violence involving partner and child abuse, and animal cruelty by children may precede violence in later life. In 2001 the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) hosted conferences discussing the 'link' between animal cruelty, domestic violence and child abuse. A multi-agency group, the Links Group, was established to raise the profile of the issue, to encourage relevant research, and to promote good working practice in relation to cross-reporting between agencies.

### Cross-reporting

Cross-reporting between different agencies occurs on a limited scale and in a sporadic manner. In 2008, the RSPCA estimates it received 600 referrals from social services; these were for a variety of reasons and there are no figures for the number that related to safeguarding children. New RSPCA inspectors receive some training about child protection issues and there are plans for inspectors to begin formally recording concerns about children in households during investigations of alleged animal cruelty or neglect, to report to social services or

the police if necessary. In 2008, a draft joint protocol between the RSPCA and the London Safeguarding Children Board was published. This provides guidance on when and how agencies should share information.<sup>3</sup> No date for implementation has been agreed, though similar guidelines are in use by social services in other parts of the country.<sup>4</sup>

Despite these developments, there is no overall consensus on what cross-reporting should encompass. This reflects factors such as differences in organisational priorities, fear of additional workload, and lack of knowledge of, or differing opinions about, the nature of relationships between animal cruelty, child abuse and domestic violence.

### Evidence

Associations between animal cruelty and other violence can be broken down into the categories discussed below.

#### Domestic Violence and Child Abuse: Risk to Animals?

Interviews with women who have been victims of domestic violence show that some violent partners also harm pets. However, figures vary widely between studies, ranging from 25 to 80%.<sup>2</sup> Animal cruelty is integral to some cases of domestic violence, with threats to harm pets being used to control partners or children. In these cases, animal cruelty may act as a marker of more severe violence. Men who abuse both their partner and the family pet use more violence and controlling behaviours against their partner than men who abuse their partner but not pets.<sup>5</sup> Finally, in families where there is confirmed child abuse there can be high rates of animal cruelty and neglect. For instance, a US study found animal abuse in 88% of families where children had been physically abused, and 34% of families where children had been sexually abused or neglected.<sup>6</sup>

Many studies are based on samples from domestic violence refuges or families where child abuse has been confirmed. These are likely to be the most extreme cases and may not represent the full spectrum of domestic violence or child abuse. Correlations between animal cruelty and partner abuse are moderate and the relationship between them is not straightforward.<sup>5</sup>

#### **Animal Cruelty by Adults: Risk to Family Members?**

In the US, those prosecuted for animal cruelty are more likely to have a criminal record for violent offences (37%) than those not cruel to animals (7%), but it is not clear if offences involve family violence.<sup>2</sup> Fifty-eight per cent of US college students who report exposure to animal cruelty during childhood also report exposure to either domestic violence or child abuse.<sup>7</sup> Similarly, in Australia, 62% of those with animal cruelty convictions have committed assault and 55% domestic violence.<sup>8</sup> There are few good quality UK data for comparison.

#### **Animal Cruelty by Children and Adolescents**

Studies on animal cruelty by children and adolescents have tended to focus on two main questions:

- are children exposed to child abuse or domestic violence more likely to be cruel to animals?
- are (adult) violent offenders more likely to have been cruel to animals when they were a child?

#### **Animal Cruelty, Child Abuse and Domestic Violence**

North American studies have shown increases in childhood animal cruelty in children abused or exposed to domestic violence.<sup>2,9,10</sup> Adolescents in residential treatment for conduct problems who have been abused show increased rates of animal cruelty (60%) compared with those who have not been abused (40%).<sup>9</sup> Children exposed to domestic violence are 2-3 times more likely to be cruel to animals than those not exposed, though most such children are not cruel: between 1 in 6 and 1 in 9 commits animal cruelty.<sup>10</sup>

#### **Association with Subsequent Interpersonal Violence**

Studies asking people about their past behaviour show that 25-66% of violent offenders and 20% of adults in the general population report animal cruelty in childhood.<sup>2</sup> A meta-analysis of 10 studies, using criminal or psychiatric records, found that 25% of those who were violent had been cruel to animals, compared with 14% of matched controls.<sup>11</sup> In children tracked through adolescence and early adulthood there was only a small association between cruelty to animals at 6-12 years and later violent delinquency.<sup>10</sup> Cruelty that is persistent, varied, lacking in self-restraint and remorse is most likely to predict later violence.<sup>2</sup>

The view that childhood animal cruelty predicts adult violence and criminality is now widely regarded as simplistic. It is believed that animal cruelty is just one of many manifestations of antisocial behaviour that occur in no particular order and that may have similar underlying causes. This view is supported by:

- US research showing that childhood animal cruelty is as likely to be associated with non-violent crime as with violent crime and that animal cruelty is as likely to follow as to precede other offences.<sup>2</sup>

- A recent UK study in Edinburgh looking at youth transitions and crime.<sup>12</sup> Some 13% of respondents stated that they had harmed an animal on purpose between the ages of 13 and 17 years, although most had done this only once or twice. Animal cruelty peaked between the ages of 14 and 15 years and then gradually declined. For most of these adolescents, low level animal cruelty was a transient stage that was part of a pattern of other low-level violence and antisocial behaviour. Persistent and frequent animal cruelty was seen in 1% of children, many of whom were also involved in persistent interpersonal violence.

#### **Using Cruelty to Animals as a Marker**

The limitations of existing research (see below) have led some to call for caution to be exercised before using animal cruelty as a marker for identifying children or families at risk of violence.<sup>2</sup> While certain factors are likely to be associated with greater risk of violence – persistent, varied cruelty lacking in restraint or remorse, in adults or children with other problems<sup>2</sup> – there is concern that qualitatively different acts, such as neglect of pets, are being used as indicators of risk to children.<sup>11</sup>

It is also important to note that there can be a statistically significant association between two behaviours without one being a good marker for the other. Overall, childhood animal cruelty is unlikely to be a good single marker for child abuse or to be highly predictive of future violence. A wider assessment of family context and general measures of health and adjustment are more likely to be useful in this respect.

#### **Limitations of Existing Research**

Limitations of existing research that may explain contradictory or inconclusive results include the:<sup>2,11</sup>

- Lack of an accepted definition of animal cruelty. This may vary between studies or may not be defined at all. Often a single item on a checklist is used, whereas asking about the context, motivation, and nature of cruel acts would be more informative.
- Reliance on information from perpetrators, who may downplay or exaggerate this aspect of their behaviour. Combining information from multiple sources such as perpetrators, teachers, and parents may be more reliable.
- Lack of longitudinal studies that follow a representative population through childhood, adolescence and into adulthood. Much existing evidence comes from studies that examine a group of people at one point in time, or are retrospective or are based on groups such as psychiatric inpatients. Furthermore, many studies have not controlled for factors such as social deprivation.
- Lack of a) studies that ask specific questions about attitudes and behaviour towards people and animals and b) studies that test whether programmes that use animals to try to develop empathy are effective in reducing aggression in general.

## Interagency Working

### Cross-reporting Between Agencies

*Working Together to Safeguard Children* sets out advice on inter-agency working which is relevant to both animal and family agencies when cross-reporting:<sup>1</sup>

- communication and transparency are essential and families should be made aware of what information will be shared and for what purpose;
- consent should be sought, though data can be shared without consent in some circumstances;
- information should be up to date, accurate, necessary for the purpose, proportionate to the problem, secure, and shared only with those who need to see it;
- if there are any doubts then advice can be sought without revealing the identity of the family.

### When to Cross-report?

For confidentiality to be breached by allowing cross-reporting between agencies, a child must be considered to be at "risk of significant harm". There is uncertainty about what this means with cross-reporting. Some argue that an animal protection agency must have evidence of possible harm to a child (e.g. observation of a child with injuries) before cross-reporting. However, the recent draft Joint Protocol between the RSPCA and London Safeguarding Children Board assumes that *suspected animal cruelty or neglect* in a home with children is sufficient grounds to deem a child at risk of harm.<sup>3</sup>

This latter approach is based on the idea that it is better to investigate every case in which there *might be any risk* of harm to children. In practice however, lowering the threshold for what is considered a "risk of significant harm" could increase the case load for children's social services and is likely to put the families investigated under significant strain. For instance, parents whose children are made the subject of a child protection plan may subsequently be unable to work in certain jobs through the Vetting and Barring Scheme (see Box 1).

### Neglect

Most interventions, by both social services and animal protection agencies, are to combat neglect. These are often cases where, due to financial or social adversity, families require support to care for family members and/or pets. Cross-reporting by animal agencies may highlight cases of human neglect that have gone unreported. *Working Together to Safeguard Children* provides guidance for information sharing between agencies, such as housing, education, health services, and the police, to support families with multiple needs. Coordination with animal charities could allow additional assistance – veterinary care or the provision of pet food – for families who are also struggling to care for pets.

### Pet Fostering Services

Domestic violence that harms or threatens pets can indicate a greater risk of interpersonal violence.<sup>5</sup> Research has shown that concerns about pets' safety can be a factor that prevents or delays women from leaving an abusive home.<sup>2</sup> One consideration for these women is that most domestic violence refuges do not allow pets.

### Box 1. Vetting and Barring Scheme

This scheme, run by the Department for Children, Schools and Families with the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA), aims to prevent unsuitable people from working or volunteering with children and vulnerable adults. From November 2010, it is illegal to hire someone to work with children or vulnerable adults if they are not registered with the ISA. Individuals can be barred from these jobs if:

- they are convicted or cautioned for certain offences (e.g., murder, sexual offences, child abuse or neglect, child abduction by parent, disorderly and indecent behaviour);
- the ISA decides that the person may pose a risk to children or vulnerable adults (see below).

Agencies such as social services and the Criminals Records Bureau will have a statutory duty to make referrals to the ISA if they have information that they believe may indicate that a person poses a risk to children or vulnerable adults. A conviction, caution, or investigation for animal cruelty or neglect will be referred to the ISA. This is unlikely to lead to a bar on its own, but if it co-exists with other offences (such as possession of drugs), or other 'soft' information (such as police or social services reports), it may lead to a bar. If individuals are considered for barring, they will be invited to make representations, within 8 weeks, as to why they should not be barred.

Pet fostering services (see Box 2) can help, but they often lack funding, so that some families are turned away and some areas of the country are not covered.

### Cruelty to Animals and Children

Different agencies use a number of standard assessments for children and young people in need of services.

Including questions about pets in these would have a number of potential advantages, such as:

- identifying severe, persistent animal cruelty by children, which accompanies other conduct problems and so warrants further investigation;
- asking children about pets may encourage them to talk more openly about their experiences in the home, including family violence;
- pets can foster resilience in children who are vulnerable because of abuse or youth offending.<sup>2</sup>

Involving animal protection professionals in case conferences or multi-agency panels may help in making decisions about whether to support the family in keeping its pets, to remove pets from the household, or to enable children to have supervised contact with pets.

### Barriers to Cross-reporting

Cross-reporting between animal and human services is currently not widespread. Veterinary surgeons (vets) may be reluctant to report suspected animal cruelty or neglect to the RSPCA if they have not received specific training in this area, do not have ready access to 'expert advice' about animal cruelty or other family violence, or are worried about their reputation if they are seen to be breaching client confidentiality. The following sections describe approaches to dealing with such barriers.

**Box 2. Paws for Kids 'Safe Haven' Project**

*Paws for Kids* is a domestic violence charity based in the North West of England. When women are leaving violent households the whole family – parent, children, and pets – need services. If a woman is entering a domestic violence shelter that does not accept pets then *Paws for Kids* arranges for pets to be placed in foster homes for up to 9 months, reuniting owner and pet when the family is settled in a new home. Additional services aim to provide practical and emotional support and include individual and family group counselling, peer support groups, and projects (art and drama, outdoor pursuits; etc). The project helps women to escape from violent homes knowing that their pets will not be left behind, and then supports the family as it comes to terms with its experiences. The project's record for improving outcomes for families; such as fewer subsequent evictions from public housing and reduced antisocial behaviour in children, has led to partnership with the local authority.

**Mandatory Reporting of Animal Cruelty**

Mandatory reporting by vets of suspected animal cruelty has been suggested as a necessary first step to effective cross-reporting.<sup>13</sup> This would require: legislative change; the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) to govern training and assessment of vets in identifying animal cruelty; and clear reporting procedures to be established locally and nationally. Mandatory reporting has been introduced in the US, Canada and New Zealand. The RCVS does not currently support such a move, suggesting this would remove vets' capacity to make professional judgements and mean that the veterinary profession would be out of step with other professions (where mandatory reporting has not been introduced). There has been no systematic attempt to establish the extent of under-reporting of animal cruelty.

It has been suggested that mandatory reporting might lead to greater reporting of cases, with a relatively low index of suspicion, thus increasing the workload of the RSPCA and the risk that innocent families might be investigated. There is evidence that the introduction of mandated reporting of suspected child abuse in the US and Australia coincided with an increase in the number and proportion of unsubstantiated reports.<sup>14</sup>

**Improved Education**

Some suggest that the full range of groups that deal with families and pets could benefit from education about the relationships between cruelty to animals and other violence. While the RCVS provides some guidance, there is no requirement for vet schools to teach about animal cruelty, and it is not often covered as part of continuing professional development. One way of addressing this would be via a cross-disciplinary education pack approved by all the professions involved.

In autumn 2008, the Links Group initiated discussion with the veterinary professional associations about the future direction of veterinary education about animal cruelty and family violence. A guidance document outlining how veterinary practices should deal with cases of animal cruelty and family violence will be published shortly with an executive summary sent to practices to raise awareness.

**Local Networks**

Effective inter-agency working requires professionals to make local links with other agencies to build a network that can provide advice and support, even when formal cross-reporting might not be appropriate. One approach would be to develop and distribute posters to agencies, which contain local information about whom to contact if there are concerns about animal cruelty or family violence. This could include domestic violence shelters, social services, the NSPCC, the RSPCA, and the police. Links between local agencies would also ensure that they received feedback about the outcome of referrals and that work is coordinated. For example, the Scottish SPCA aims to communicate with social services and the police, to avoid its interventions from interfering with police or social services operations.

**Overview**

- There is evidence of an association between animal cruelty and interpersonal violence.
- However, animal cruelty alone is unlikely to be highly predictive as a marker for violence towards people.
- Nevertheless, agencies that work with animals and those that work with families are starting to work more closely together and to cross-report cases.
- While there are benefits of closer inter-agency working, there is a debate over when cross-reporting between animal and social care agencies is appropriate.
- Professional education, formation of local links between relevant animal and social care agencies, and mandatory reporting of suspected animal cruelty by vets have all been suggested as options.

**Endnotes**

- 1 *Working Together to Safeguard Children*, 2006, HMS Government.
- 2 *Animal abuse and child maltreatment*, 2007, NSPCC.
- 3 [www.londonscb.gov.uk/files/procedures/rspca/final\\_draft\\_rspca\\_lscb\\_protocol\\_july\\_08.doc](http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/files/procedures/rspca/final_draft_rspca_lscb_protocol_july_08.doc)
- 4 [www.cypp.luton.gov.uk/12g/custom/files\\_uploaded/uploaded\\_resources/5237/LSCB\\_ReferralProtocolRSPCA.doc](http://www.cypp.luton.gov.uk/12g/custom/files_uploaded/uploaded_resources/5237/LSCB_ReferralProtocolRSPCA.doc)
- 5 Simmons & Lehmann, *J. Interper. Viol.*, 2007, 22, 1211-1222.
- 6 DeViney et al, *Inter. J. Study. Anim. Prob.*, 1983, 4, 321-329.
- 7 DeGue & DeLillo, *J. Interper. Viol.*, 2009, 24:6, 1036-1056.
- 8 Gullone & Clarke, in *The International Handbook of Animal Abuse & Cruelty* (ed. Ascione), 2008.
- 9 Duncan et al, *J. of Family Violence*, 2005, 20:4, 235-239.
- 10 Becker et al, *J. Am. Acad. Chi. Adol. Psychia.*, 2004, 43, 905-912.
- 11 Patterson-Kane & Piper, *J. of Social Issues*, 2009, 65:3, 589-614.
- 12 *Animal abuse amongst young people aged 13 to 17*, 2007, RSPCA.
- 13 Robertson, in *The Link Between Animal Abuse & Human Violence* (ed. Linzey), 2009.
- 14 Bell & Tooman, *Inter. J. Law & the Fam.*, 1994, 8, 337-356.

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[www.parliament.uk/parliamentary\\_offices/post.cfm](http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_offices/post.cfm)

**From:** Rabinowitz, Peter [mailto:peter.rabinowitz@yale.edu]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2010 8:37 AM  
**To:** Rep. Urban, Diana  
**Subject:** cross reporting of human and animal abuse

Dear Ms. Urban,

I am a faculty member at the Yale School of Medicine, and am interested in the overlap between human and animal health.

I heard on our local NPR station last night about your proposal for cross reporting of abuse between animal control and human health agencies. This sounds like a great idea for the reasons you put forward. I wanted to make you aware that I have recently published a clinical textbook for doctors, veterinarians, and public health professionals about Human-Animal medicine issues that includes a chapter on psychosocial issues and a discussion of the need for such cross-reporting.

The textbook is called "Human-Animal Medicine" --(see <http://www.us.elsevierhealth.com/ISBN/9781416068372/HumanAnimal-Medicine>).

I also wanted to make you aware of a movement by human and animal health professionals to encourage greater interdisciplinary cooperation in a "One Health" model- (see <http://www.onehealthinitiative.com/>).

Perhaps these can serve as resources to support your efforts,

With best wishes,

Peter Rabinowitz MD MPH  
Associate Professor of Medicine  
Yale University School of Medicine

**From:** Bob Kocienda [mailto:bkocienda@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 16, 2010 6:00 PM  
**To:** Rep. Urban, Diana  
**Subject:** Cross-reporting with DCF

Dear Rep. Urban -

On behalf of the 132 members of the Senators Community Foundation, I am writing to thank you for sponsoring a bill that calls for cross-reporting between DCF caseworkers and animal control officers. As you know, the Senators Community Foundation is a program of the Center for Youth Leadership, which is based at Brien McMahon High in Norwalk.

Cross-reporting is one of the major child abuse social change items that our members have been promoting with local and state-wide officials. In fact, we're hosting a meeting on Friday with the animal control officer in Norwalk and a caseworker from the DCF office in Norwalk-Stamford. Would you believe that the animal control officer has never met with DCF caseworkers in his 23 years on the job?

The purpose of the meeting is the implementation of a cross-reporting and cross-training initiative in Norwalk-Stamford. We know this is a process; something that will take time to implement county-wide. But it's an important step if we're going to make change happen. I will keep you posted on developments.

Thanks for your support of such an important issue. Bob

---

**Bob Kocienda**  
**Center for Youth Leadership**  
**Brien McMahon High School**  
**300 Highland Avenue**  
**Norwalk, Connecticut 06854**  
**203/852.9488 (phone)**  
**203/899.2413 (fax)**  
**www.gocyl.org**

**From:** xcheetahgirls93@aol.com [mailto:xcheetahgirls93@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Sun 2/21/2010 9:36 PM  
**To:** Rep. Urban, Diana  
**Subject:**

Dear Member of the Select Committee on Children:

I am writing in support of HB 5041 (cross-reporting of child abuse and animal cruelty) and SB 153 (safe harbor for exploited children). Representatives of the Center for Youth Leadership at Brien McMahon High School, of which I am a member, will testify before your committee on Tuesday, February 23.

Our members have been working on both issues since 2007. We have led public awareness activities in southern Fairfield County, held discussions with survivors of human trafficking, and met with animal control officers and caseworkers from the Department of Children and Families. And our volunteer time with children who have experienced or witnessed abuse includes heartbreaking discussions about cruelty against animals.

I know you have a lot to do this session, but I cannot think of two more important pieces of legislation. Both will help promote the emotional and physical health of some of Connecticut's more vulnerable children and teens.

Thank you.

Daniela Calderon

## Center for Youth Leadership

Why wait for someone else to make a difference?

Pg 8  
Line 22<sup>3</sup>  
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### Connecticut Assembly's Select Committee on Children Testimony, February 23, 2010

#### Introduction

Good afternoon Senator Musto, Representative Urban, and members of the committee. We have a special greeting for Senator Boucher, who has worked with us on legislation about teen dating violence and human trafficking, and Representative Mioli, who participates in the child abuse public awareness events we hold every year at the State Capitol.

My name is Laura Knox and I am from the Center for Youth Leadership, which is based at Brien McMahon High School in Norwalk. Joining me is Sky Loth, who is also a member of the Center.

On behalf of the 223 student activists at the Center for Youth Leadership, we are here to testify in support of HB 5041, which calls for cross-reporting of child abuse and animal cruelty, and SB 153, which is the safe harbor bill for exploited children. We'll talk first about cross-reporting.

#### HB 5041 Cross-Reporting of Child Abuse and Animal Cruelty

Child abuse prevention has been the focus of our public awareness and social change campaigns since 1999. The fact that the link between animal cruelty and child abuse is just the fifth subtopic that we've added to our work since then points to its importance for us.

Since 2008 we've been working on bringing cross-training and cross-reporting to animal control officers and Department of Children and Families caseworkers in lower Fairfield County. To that end, we followed the outcomes of the meetings that were

Center for Youth Leadership  
Testimony in support of HB 5041, SB 153

1. Will DCF caseworkers and animal control officers ask about animal cruelty and child abuse as a matter of routine, or will it be based on a casual visual observation only. For example, will DCF caseworkers add a screen for animal cruelty to the screens it uses to assess domestic violence, substance abuse and other issues when investigating a case? Will the software that DCF uses have to be adjusted to accommodate caseworkers' notes about animal cruelty?
2. According to the bill, if a DCF caseworker notes animal cruelty during a home visit, he/she will need to report it. Let's say the caseworker also suspects child abuse in the family. How will the caseworker report the suspected animal cruelty without compromising the family's identity?
3. Has anyone assessed how HB 5041 will affect the training and work of animal control officers? We did not see any reference to this in the language of the bill.
4. Who will put together the training that we assume animal control officers and caseworkers will need to complete?
5. Let's say HB 5041 becomes law. Who will design and implement an evaluation to see how the law is working three-six-nine months after it is enacted?

We will continue to work to bring cross-reporting of animal cruelty and child abuse to lower Fairfield County. Thanks for the opportunity to share our thoughts with you.

### **SB 153: Safe Harbor for Exploited Children**

As Laura said, my name is Sky Loth and on behalf of the 223 members of the Center for Youth Leadership I am here in support of SB 153, Safe Harbor for Exploited Children.

You are a runaway or throwaway kid. No one will take you in - no aunts, no uncles. A friend's family thought about helping you, but then they thought again. You hit the streets with the clothes on your back and a slim sense of how you're going to make it.

Some guy calls to you from his car. You ignore him. He calls to you again two days later, and four days after that. The car looks nice. He seems friendly. You're hungry and you need a place to sleep. Your gut tells you that stepping off the curb and into his car may not be the best thing. But your gut also needs food. So, you step off the curb and into a

Center for Youth Leadership  
Testimony in support of HB 5041, SB 153

world of servicing men, none of whom you know, none of whom care who you are. The only one who cares is the pimp who trafficks you from man to man, location to location, with the occasional beating thrown in.

This girl from a city in Connecticut actually survived longer than some. According to the National Incidence Studies of Missing, Runaway and Thrownaway Children, of the estimated 1.5 million children who will run away from home this year, tens of thousands will spend time working for sexual predators and selling their bodies on the streets; many will be lured into prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home.

I have never been trafficked, nor have any of my friends, but we are concerned for teens in Connecticut who have, especially if SB 153 does not become law. We have been working on trafficking since 2006, which is when we hosted a workshop that featured experts from Save the Children, the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women and Micheline Slattery. Micheline's story as a restavec (or slave) in Haiti is what compelled our members to act.

Since then we have continued our research, led scores of public awareness activities, and made a conscious decision to focus on the trafficking of children and teens in the United States. It would have been easy to focus on international trafficking, but we were concerned about perpetuating the myth, at least among people my age, that trafficking does not happen right here in Connecticut.

We have come to the conclusion that states need to stop charging children - some as young as 11-12 years old - with prostitution and locking them up. Why re-traumatize a child who has been sexually exploited for someone else's gain? Connecticut is not alone in this approach. The Barton Child Law and Policy Clinic at the Emory University School of Law found that nearly all states allow children of just about any age to be prosecuted for prostitution - even though children are too young to consent to sex with adults. We believe every state should provide sexually exploited children born in this country with the same protections and services that are routinely granted to international victims.

We were pleased to see that SB 153 has taken into account the farsighted legislation enacted in New York, under which children arrested for prostitution would be presumed to be victims of sexual trafficking and given protection and social services. We do not see any benefit to a teen - or the State of Connecticut - if a teen is locked up for a crime that she was coerced into committing. As many people have noted, charging children with the crime of prostitution "...compounds the harm done to them and deepens feelings of guilt and worthlessness that haunts victims of sexual exploitation."

Center for Youth Leadership  
Testimony in support of HB 5041, SB 153

Keeping children and teens out of the criminal justice system and hooking them up with services is in keeping with a growing movement in southern Fairfield County. For example, our sister program in Stamford runs a juvenile review board, as does the City of Bridgeport, and our hometown of Norwalk runs a street level outreach program to teens. Granted, neither deals with hardcore issues like trafficking, but their stated purpose of keeping teens out of jail and referring them to community based care is something that should be afforded to children and teens who have been trafficked.

Finally, we agree with our friends at Love 146 and the Barnaba Institute that the language in SB 153 should be changed to bring it in line with Connecticut's Raise the Age legislation and to insure that prosecuting a child for prostitution is not an option. The last thing someone my age needs is a criminal record for something that I was forced to do against my will; that will stigmatize me; and that may compromise my ability to heal, reconnect with my family, and to find a job or enroll in school.

Thank you.

Center for Youth Leadership at Brien McMahon High School  
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February 23, 2010

**H – 1090**

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**VOL.53  
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rgd/md/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

406  
May 5, 2010

Remark further on the bill as amended?

Representative Walker.

REP. WALKER (93rd):

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to move this to the consent calendar.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. Clerk, Calendar 430.

THE CLERK:

On page 19, Calendar 430, substitute for Senate Bill Number 153, AN ACT PROVIDING A SAFE HARBOR FOR EXPLOITED CHILDREN, favorable reported, the Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Jarmoc.

REP. JARMOC (59th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move for acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill in concurrence with the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The question is on passage and concurrence.

Representative Jarmoc.

REP. JARMOC (59th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill makes

rgd/md/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

407  
May 5, 2010

prosecution of crimes only for people age 16 and older. It also creates a presumption that a 16 or 17 year old charged with prostitution was coerced into this offense by a person involved in trafficking. It also increases the penalty for prostitution from a Class C felony to a Class B. I move adoption.

I move passage, Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you. I understand there may be a Senate Amendment on this?

That's better. We got the board corrected.

The question is on adoption of Senate Amendment Schedule "A." Will you remark on Senate Amendment Schedule "A?"

Representative O'Neill.

REP. O'NEILL (69th):

Yes, Mr. Speaker. If I could perhaps have a bit of an explanation. I'm reading the amendment off my computer screen, I don't have anything on paper. So could the lady provide me with an explanation of what this does? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Jarmoc, did you here that.

REP. JARMOC (59th):

rgd/md/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

408  
May 5, 2010

I'm sorry. I didn't, Mr. Speaker. If he could

--

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Let me make it a little quieter in here.

REP. JARMOC (59th):

Okay.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. We need to have a little discussion here.

Representative O'Neill.

REP. O'NEILL (69th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Actually I have been given a more legible copy of the document and I think I have an answer to my question. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, sir.

Representative Hetherington.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Thank you. A question to the proponent, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Please proceed.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. So what would be the disposition of a charge against a youthful offender

rgd/md/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

409  
May 5, 2010

who was charged with prostitution? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Jarmoc.

REP. JARMOC (59th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. This bill makes prostitution a crime only for people aged 16 and older. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Hetherington.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

But the -- I see. The person charged then with prostitution, if it's a young person would not be charged, but -- and would be immediately -- the charge would be dismissed; is that right? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Jarmoc.

Members, please take your seats. If you need to have conversations, please take them outside. We're trying to move some business here and the people debating the bill can't hear each other.

Representative Hetherington, could you repeat the question?

rgd/md/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

410  
May 5, 2010

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Yes, I simply asked that if the person were charged with prostitution, a young person, under 16, would that mean that then the person would be immediately released and that the charge is dismissed? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Jarmoc.

REP. JARMOC (59th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. From my understanding of this bill is that yes, you are correct.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

I see.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Hetherington.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Okay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I thank the proponent.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, sir.

Remark further on Senate Amendment Schedule "A?"

If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

rgd/md/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

411  
May 5, 2010

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Opposed, nay. The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted.

Will you remark further on the bill as amended?

Representative Jarmoc.

Representative Jarmoc, perhaps you could move this to the consent calendar.

REP. JARMOC (59th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this be placed on the consent calendar.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Without objection, this item has been moved to the consent calendar.

396, Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page 16, Calendar 396, substitute for Senate Bill Number 175, AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT COMPETITIVENESS COUNCIL, favorable report by Committee on Government Administration and Elections.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Fritz.

REP. FRITZ (90th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good evening.

rgd/md/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

449  
May 5, 2010

Representative Roy.

REP. ROY (119th):

Mr. Speaker, without objection, can I move this to consent?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Without objection, this item is moved to the consent calendar.

Ladies and gentlemen, I'm going to call on Representative Olson to call today's consent calendar.

Representative Olson.

REP. OLSON (46th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are about to vote on SB108 SB302 today's lengthy consent calendar. The items we have SB250 HB5398 moved to consent are: SB153 SB175

Calendar Numbers 499, 487, 180, 507, 430, 396, SB412 SB428 535, 497, 522, 517, 510, 155, 466 and 489. Thank you, SB121 SB427 Mr. Speaker. SB370 HB5420 SB354 SB272

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, madam. And as soon as we get this up on the board.

Representative Olson.

REP. OLSON (46th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Actually, we have already voted on item 430. I want to thank

rgd/md/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

450  
May 5, 2010

Representative Hamzy for being so diligent and  
watching the calendar. I make a motion to remove Item  
4370 from the consent calendar. Thank you, Mr. SB153

Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

I believe we have corrected the error.

As you can see, the consent calendar is on the  
board. Representative Olson has moved passage of the  
bills on the consent calendar.

Staff and guests, please come to the well of the  
house. Members, take your seats, the machine will be  
opened.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll  
call. Members to the Chamber. The House is voting  
today's consent calendar by roll call. Members to the  
Chamber.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members  
voted? Please check the roll call board and make sure  
your votes were properly cast. If all the members  
have voted, the machine will be locked. Clerk,  
please announce the tally. Clerk, please announce the  
tally.

rgd/md/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

455  
May 5, 2010

Total Number Voting	148
Necessary for Passage	75
Those voting Yea	121
Those voting Nay	27
Those absent and not voting	3

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Bill as amended is passed.

Representative Olson.

REP. OLSON (46th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move for the immediate transmission of all items acted upon that require further action in the Senate.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Question is on immediate transmittal of any items that need further action in the Senate. Any objection? Hearing none, so ordered.

Clerk, please call Calendar 430.

THE CLERK:

On page 19, Calendar 430, substitute for Senate Bill Number 153, AN ACT PROVIDING A SAFE HARBOR FOR EXPLOITED CHILDREN, Senate A has been adopted. It is a favorable report, the Committee on Judiciary.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Jarmoc.

rgd/md/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

456  
May 5, 2010

REP. JARMOC (59th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move for acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill in concurrence with the Senate.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The question is on joint committee's report and passage of the bill. Will you remark? Will you remark?

If not, staff and guests, please come to the well of the house. Members take their seats, the machine will be opened.

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.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? Please check the roll call board and make sure your votes were properly cast. If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked. Clerk, please announce the tally.

Clerk, please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill Number 153, as amended by Senate A.

rgd/md/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

457  
May 5, 2010

and in concurrence with the Senate.

Total Number Voting	150
Necessary for Passage	76
Those voting Yea	149
Those voting Nay	1
Those absent and not voting	1

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The bill as amended is passed.

Will the Clerk please call Emergency Certified  
Bill 494.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill Number 494, AN ACT MAKING ADJUSTMENTS  
TO STATE EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE  
30, 2011, LCO Number 563, introduced by Senator  
Williams and Representative Donovan.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The only working chair in the Appropriations  
Committee, Representative Geragosian, you have the  
floor, sir.

REP. GERAGOSIAN (25th):

Good evening, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Good evening.

REP. GERAGOSIAN (25th):

**S - 602**

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2010**

**VOL. 53  
PART 5  
1267 - 1608**

ch/gbr  
SENATE

27  
April 27, 2010

Yes thank you, Mr. President.

Would mark four items at this -- at this time.  
First is Calendar page 11, Calendar 332, Senate  
Bill 153 and next is Calendar page 12, Calendar  
339, Senate Bill 443 and then Calendar page 28,  
Calendar 101, Senate Bill 45 and then Calendar page  
34, Calendar 226, Senate Bill 314.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Favorable reports matters marked order of the  
day. Calendar page 11, Calendar Number 332, File  
469, Substitute for Senate Bill 153, AN ACT  
PROVIDING A SAFE HARBOR FOR EXPLOITED CHILDREN,  
favorable report of the Committees on Children and  
Judiciary.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Musto.

SENATOR MUSTO:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I would move the Joint favorable report and  
passage of the bill.

ch/gbr  
SENATE

28  
April 27, 2010

THE CHAIR:

Acting on approval and passage of the bill, sir, would you like to remark further?

SENATOR MUSTO:

Yes thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, this is a bill -- this is quite simply a good bill and it ought to pass. We hear that a lot around here and it certainly applies to this bill. It's a bipartisan effort and what it will do is exempt children, regardless of gender, who are under the age of 16 from being prosecuted as prostitutes.

These children are most often exploited. We have a great deal of legislation on -- on human trafficking in this state and around the country and this bill will protect those children who are being exploited by people older than they are who are making money off of them who are essentially ruining their lives from profiting any more and it will prevent those children from going through life with a criminal record, being incarcerated and all of the other ill-affects that come from being arrested for prostitution.

In regards to this also, I have an amendment. I

ch/gbr  
SENATE

29  
April 27, 2010

believe the Clerk is in possession of LCO 3898 and I would ask that that amendment be called at this time.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

LCO 3898, which will designated as Senate Amendment Schedule "A," is offered by Senator Musto of the 22nd district.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Musto.

SENATOR MUSTO:

I move the amendment, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Acting on movement, sir, would you like to remark further?

SENATOR MUSTO:

Yes, Mr. President.

This amendment is essential to this bill.

What it does is it makes sure that the people who are profiting by pimping out these children do not escape prosecution because simply the children are incapable of being prosecuted. We want to make sure that no one escapes liability for using young

ch/gbr  
SENATE

30

April 27, 2010

children for their own profit or selling them sexually by us helping out the children and providing the services to these children.

So I would ask that this amendment be passed.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

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

Senator Boucher.

SENATOR BOUCHER:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I rise to support the amendment and of course the underlying bill as well. We thank our Senator Kane for bringing this issue to our attention in the Children's Committee and, after much study on the part of the chairman who took an interest also in this bill and setting other model states that have put this into action, many of the concerns that were raised I think will be dealt well with the change in the language and certainly by this amendment to making sure that it doesn't have unintended consequences thereby underaged children would be targeted as profitable candidates for this type of business because they

ch/gbr  
SENATE

31  
April 27, 2010

will not be prosecuted in essence. So hopefully this amendment will take care of that concern and it should be supported and again we thank all parties for bringing this good bill to our attention.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Boucher.

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

If not, I will try your minds.

All those in favor, please signify by saying Aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed nay.

The Ayes have it. The amendment is adopted.

Senator Musto.

SENATOR MUSTO:

Yes thank you, Mr. President.

One other aspect of this bill that I neglected to mention in my initial comments was that children who are 16 and 17 the presumption in those cases

ch/gbr  
SENATE

32

April 27, 2010

will change so that they were presumed to be coerced. This will also provide them with access to some human trafficking services that we have here in the state.

And with your permission, Mr. President, I would like to yield to Senator Kane. He's been instrumental in bringing this idea to us and in getting the -- this bill where it is today.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane do you accept the yield, sir?

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President, yes I do.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR KANE:

First of all I want to thank Senator Musto for helping us out with this legislation. The Children's Committee showed us quite -- how good they work together, bipartisan, and what kind of leadership they gave on this issue.

You know not all issues, not all bills, not all proposals are our ideas that's for sure. Many times they come from our constituents, our family, our friends. My wife is a clinical psychologist, I

ch/gbr  
SENATE

33

April 27, 2010

probably mentioned that a number of times, and in her American Psychological Association there was an article about this very subject and how this bill has been passed in states like New York and California.

It's a very serious issue that I think most people really don't want to talk about. I think they want to keep it on the back burner and pretend it doesn't exist. Well recently we held a documentary showing here at the LOB from a -- a movie maker called Playground and in the beginning of the documentary you see third world countries that you would think of where this type of activity happens but all of a sudden it makes a quick turn and talks about the United States because the United States is the biggest problem that human trafficking and forcing children into prostitution happens in the world.

American males are the worst offenders of this crime and American children are by far the worst victims. So this is a very serious issue that affects the State of Connecticut and all of the United States greatly. So I again want to thank Senator Musto. I want to thank the Children's

ch/gbr  
SENATE

34  
April 27, 2010

Committee. I want to thank the Judiciary  
Committee. This truly is a good bill and will go a  
long way to help teenage victims who are coerced  
and forced into the sex trade and really have no  
other way to turn but to the programs that we can  
provide them and the help we can give them with  
this bill.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

Will you remark further on Senate Bill 153  
amended by Senate "A?"

Senator Stillman.

SENATOR STILLMAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise in support of this bill. As a  
legislator several years ago I brought this issue  
of human trafficking to the General Assembly and we  
have now codified that as a crime in this state and  
I'm very pleased to see that we've now gone the  
next step.

Looking at what else we can do to help  
children, young girls and young boys, who are sadly  
caught up in this cycle of activity that is

ch/gbr  
SENATE

35

April 27, 2010

obviously one that we would like to protect them from. We'd like to thank Senator Musto and his committee for bringing this forward and Senator Kane for his advocacy on this bill as well.

I was very pleased to see in the joint favorable report on this bill the variety of nonprofits and state agencies that support this bill because they do realize that this is a problem and one that is being addressed through this bill in a very responsible way and certainly it is my hope that, as we address this issue of human trafficking in Connecticut and in this country, that we can continue to research it and see what else we can do so that our children or children that are brought here from other countries are not subjected to the horrors of trafficking.

So with that I urge my colleagues to please vote for this bill. I -- I can't imagine why anyone would not. It's a -- a very good piece of legislation and it's my honor to speak about it. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, ma'am.

Will you remark further?

ch/gbr  
SENATE

36

April 27, 2010

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF:

Thank you, Mr. President, good afternoon.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon, sir.

SENATOR DUFF:

Mr. President I rise to support this legislation as well and I want to thank Senator Kane and Senator Musto and years back Senator Stillman for all her work on the issue of human trafficking. It's been very important and a very good learning experience I think for many of us here in the legislature.

But I've received countless emails from the Center for Youth Leadership at Brien McMahon High School in Norwalk and over the last few weeks or so, especially even during our spring break where many of the students were off in other places or on vacation not thinking about school, these students were so committed that they were sending me emails throughout their vacation and up to the last few days. They had come up to testify about this legislation. They had been working on a number of issues over the years that deals with human

April 27, 2010

trafficking and they see this as just another logical step in trying to protect girls and boys and -- and -- who have been subject to human trafficking.

I had the opportunity a few years ago to meet a young girl who had been trafficked from another country and had been in Norwalk and had basically been a slave to a family and if it -- it weren't for the justice system and -- and others who took an interest in her who knows what would have happened to her but right now she has turned her life around. She has been much more successful than she otherwise would have been but she told me the extent of which the -- the problems that she faced so I do believe also that this is another logical extension to the work that many people have done in this building to deal with human trafficking.

So again my hat is off to my colleagues for doing this and also to those young people who have constantly cared about this issue and pushed it in front of their legislators in town by emails and phone calls, coming up to Hartford to testify on a bill that they believe is so important. So we talk

ch/gbr  
SENATE

38

April 27, 2010

a lot of times about activism amongst our young people. These folks at the Center for Youth Leadership at Brien McMahon High School walk the walk and they talk the talk and I'm very, very proud of their efforts and very happy to support the legislation and press the green button today on their behalf thanking them for all their hard work as well.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

Will you remark further?

Senator Prague.

SENATOR PRAGUE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I too rise to support this bill. I actually signed on as a co-sponsor. I can't think of anything more despicable than abusing children and using them for your pleasure. I think it is just outrageous and I thank Senator Kane for bringing this issue before the Chamber. We just, just cannot tolerate this kind of abuse of our children.

Thank you.

ch/gbr  
SENATE

39  
April 27, 2010

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, ma'am.

Will you remark further?

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you, Mr. President.

If I may a question to the proponent of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Musto.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you. Through you, Mr. President, I'm concerned and it maybe just -- you clarify this for me that if -- currently if parents are having difficulties with their children, teenagers, they may turn to the police for assistance because the child is generally maybe beyond the control of the parent and they're getting involved in deviant behavior and prostitution may be one of those forms of deviant behavior.

And so we had what was known as a FWSN case, a family with service needs, that a -- the police or a school counselor could send -- fill out and send that juvenile or child to the court system to get

ch/gbr  
SENATE

40

April 27, 2010

mandated assistance through the courts and I'm wondering does this bill do anything to hamper those type of efforts where a parent is trying to help their child and the only way that they can possibly do that maybe is through a court order?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Musto.

SENATOR MUSTO:

Thank you, Mr. President.

To Senator Witkos, no. This bill has absolutely nothing to do with any ability by a parent to work through any other system in state government. The sole purpose of this bill is to prevent these children who are being exploited from having a criminal record and from being put through the criminal prosecution system. Under the human rights legislation that Senator Stillman was talking about, these children would get services in any case.

And also, when a child is having these problems it's -- it's, as we hear on the Children's Committee all the time, it's rarely just one thing. It's usually -- maybe there are drugs involved,

ch/gbr  
SENATE

41

April 27, 2010

maybe there is theft involved, they're skipping school, they're engaging in some sort of violence or gang behavior. There are other things going on as well. I don't anticipate -- and for purposes of legislative intent and if some clarification is needed down the road as well, I certainly do not anticipate that this bill would, in any way, in any way, hamper the rights of parents or the ability of parents to get help from other agencies or bodies in the state. That would be directly in contrast to the intent of this bill and I don't think anyone in this circle would intend for that to happen.

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I -- Senator, you brought up a good point and for clarification, if there is a -- say a party is a member of a gang and they are trying to raise money for the gang as -- for whatever the reason and they self-prostitute themselves, without being a pimp or a john involved and they're doing it as a means of making money, would they be exempt from

ch/gbr  
SENATE

42

April 27, 2010

any prosecution under this law?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Musto.

SENATOR MUSTO:

The answer is yes if they are under the age of 16, even a prostitute who is prostituting him or herself would be exempt from prosecution under this law.

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark further on Senate Bill 153?

Senator McKinney.

SENATOR MCKINNEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I rise in support of this and wanted simply to rise to thank all of those who worked so hard on its behalf, first the Children's Committee, chaired by Senator Musto and our ranking member Senator Boucher for all of their hard work.

ch/gbr  
SENATE

43

April 27, 2010

This amendment I think recognizes an important part of this. Most especially want to thank Senator Kane for bringing this to our attention and his steadfast leadership on protecting these young -- young women from this horrendous crime of trafficking. And also to acknowledge the work over the years of Senator Stillman who has worked so hard on trafficking of -- of young girls, women in general, and bringing to my attention specifically the real dangers of it even here in Connecticut.

So this is a good piece of legislation and we should all be proud. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

Will you remark further on Senate Bill 153?

Will you remark further?

Senator Musto.

SENATOR MUSTO:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Absent of objection, I would like to place this -- move to place this on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

There is a motion on the floor to place the item on the consent calendar.

ch/gbr  
SENATE

44  
April 27, 2010

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Calendar page 12, matter marked second order of the day, Calendar Number 339, File Number 519, Senate Bill Number 443, AN ACT CONCERNING THE CANCELLATION OF UNISSUED BOND FUND AUTHORIZATIONS, favorable report of the Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

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

THE CHAIR:

Acting on approval of the bill, ma'am, would you like to remark further?

SENATOR DAILY:

Thank you.

This is basically a bookkeeping effort in the treasurer's office, cleaning up accounts from 1969 through 1986.

THE CHAIR:

ch/gbr  
SENATE

159

April 27, 2010

has been ordered in the Senate on the consent calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber.

Mr. President, the items placed Consent Calendar Number 1 begin on calendar page 1, Calendar 435, House Joint Resolution Number 102; calendar page 2, Calendar 436, House Joint Resolution Number 103; Calendar 437, House Joint Resolution Number 104; Calendar 438, House Joint Resolution Number 105; calendar page 3, Calendar Number 53, Substitute for Senate Bill 141; Calendar 61, Senate Bill 131; Calendar Number 69, Senate Bill 62; calendar page 5, Calendar 139, Substitute for Senate Bill 173; Calendar 151, Substitute for Senate Bill 149; calendar page 8, Calendar 221, Senate Bill 156; calendar page 11, Calendar 332, Substitute for Senate Bill 153, calendar page 12, Calendar 339, Senate Bill 443; calendar page 26, Calendar Number 54, Senate Bill 190; calendar page 29, Calendar 129, Substitute for Senate Bill 50 and calendar page 32, Calendar Number 191, Substitute for Senate Bill 407.

Mr. President, that completes those items placed on the first consent calendar.

ch/gbr  
SENATE

160  
April 27, 2010

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

Please call the consent. 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 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 locked. The Clerk will call the tally.

THE CLERK:

Motion is on adoption of consent calendar  
Number 1.

Total number voting	35
Those voting Yea	35
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

Consent calendar passes.

Senator Looney.