



Official Statement

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CONTACT: Christine Palm, Communications Director at 860/240-8449; or 860/836-2145

FROM: Teresa Younger, Executive Director

DATE: May 30, 2013

RE: sH.B. 5666 AN ACT CONCERNING THE FORFEITURE OF MONEYS AND PROPERTY RELATED TO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

“We applaud the members of the House on their passing of sHB 5666, an enlightened piece of public policy that strengthens the laws on the books and sends a very clear message about how seriously Connecticut takes the deplorable crime of human trafficking.

“Under the bipartisan leadership of several female legislators, most notably: Rep. Rosa C. Rebimbas (R-70th), Rep. Betsy Ritter (D-38th), Sen. Beth Bye (D-5th), Sen. Toni Boucher (R-26th) and Sen. Andrea Stillman (D-20th), the women’s caucus – joined by several male colleagues – introduced this legislation in a landmark show of unity. Now, it’s up to the Senate to pass it and send it on to the Governor.”

Among its provisions, sHB 5666 will:

- Increase criminal penalties for anyone hiring persons under the age of 18 for paid sexual favors;
- Allow the Superior Court to vacate criminal convictions for prostitution involving victims of trafficking;
- Lower the burden of proof for sex trafficking minors;
- Require the forfeiture of criminal assets derived from commercial sexual exploitation of a minor;
- Expand the definition of the types of property subject to forfeiture as “tainted funds and property related to sexual exploitation and human trafficking” to include those funds and property related to prostitution and 3rd degree promoting prostitution.
- Require public awareness and education about services for human trafficking victims; and
- Direct the Trafficking in Persons Council to identify further deficiencies in general statutes and report to the Judiciary Committee by 1/2014.

About the PCSW: The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women was formed in 1973 under Sec. 46a-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes to study and improve Connecticut women's economic security, health and safety; to promote consideration of qualified women to leadership positions and to work toward the elimination of gender discrimination. As a non-partisan arm of the General Assembly, the agency monitors, critiques and recommends changes to legislation in order to inform public policy, and assesses programs and practices in all State agencies for their effect on the state's women. The PCSW serves as a liaison between government and its diverse constituents, and convenes stakeholders, including the business, non-profit and educational communities, local governments, and the media, in order to promote awareness of women's issues.