



State of Connecticut
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF STATE'S ATTORNEY

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**TESTIMONY OF
CHIEF STATE'S ATTORNEY CHRISTOPHER L. MORANO**

IN SUPPORT OF:

**S.B. No. 168 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING
THE INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**

**S.B. No. 153 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING
THE INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**

**S.B. No. 154 (RAISED) AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS
OF THE INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**

The Office of the Chief State's Attorney supports the concept of all three of these bills. We believe they represent a pro-active first step to dealing with a serious and most troubling problem, that being the trafficking in persons.

Although no incidents of trafficking in persons have been reported yet in the State of Connecticut, the practice is known to exist in other states and especially in other countries. The United States Justice Department has recognized this fact in its establishment of specific grant programs to address the issue.

I must stress that no incidents have been reported yet in the State of Connecticut. That is not the same as saying that the practice does not exist, for as we all know criminals rarely try to draw attention to the fact that they are breaking the law. In fact, trafficking in persons is a particularly clandestine operation, which by that very nature makes its detection and prosecution all the more difficult.

I thank the General Assembly for taking the lead on this issue and proposing this first step to provide us with the statutory tools necessary to carry out this important job.

In particular, I would like to commend Senator Stillman for taking a leadership role in the creation of the Task Force and in serving as its Chair. I would also like to thank the General Assembly for including the Office of the Chief State's Attorney in the membership of the Task Force and allowing us to participate in its deliberations.

Please note that I state that these bills represent just a first step. I say this because additional legislation - and additional, specialized resources - may be necessary in the future. The cases in question here generally involve very complicated and intensive investigations requiring the use of specially trained investigators and support personnel, including translators and the like.

With regard to the specific bills before the General Assembly at this time, the Division of Criminal Justice would offer the following recommendations:

- In S.B. No. 154 and S.B. No. 168, we would recommend the addition of a criminal penalty for violation of Section 3(a) by an individual who knowingly employs a trafficked individual. This penalty should be commensurate with the penalty for trafficking in persons. The motive for this crime is profit and there would be no motive if there were no market for the victims.
- In Sections 6 and 7, regarding the establishment of a Victim Security Account administered by the Office of Victim Services, we would recommend that services shall be only for verified victims of the offense of trafficking in persons, and be provided only to those victims who cooperate with law enforcement in the investigation and prosecution of the offense.

In closing, please allow me to again thank the General Assembly and Senator Stillman for your attention to this issue. The Office of the Chief State's Attorney stands ready to assist the Committee as you continue your deliberations on these bills.