

March 12, 2012

To Rep. Grogins,

I urge you to support the passage of HB5455, An Act Concerning Penalties for and the Investigation of the Operation of Illegal Massage Establishments. While I believe this law will have a positive impact on all of Connecticut, I see it having its greatest effect on the city of Bridgeport. There are known to be nine such businesses currently operating in Bridgeport. These businesses drag down property values and invite an unwanted element into our cities. In the Black Rock section of Bridgeport, a family-oriented residential neighborhood, there are at least four illegitimate massage parlors. These businesses are within walking distance of two elementary schools and several family friendly businesses including an ice cream parlor, a candy shop, and a pizzeria. No one- especially children- should have to walk by such sordid establishments on a daily basis.

We often hear about efforts to "revitalize" Bridgeport. Local lawmakers are working to encourage business owners to move their shops to our city. Unfortunately, the presence of sexually oriented businesses and the potential for danger that accompanies them deters such growth. These businesses send a message that unlawful behavior is acceptable in our community. As such, most reputable business owners choose not to open shop in Bridgeport.

As a resident of the Black Rock section of Bridgeport, I urge you to support this bill. Residents cannot revitalize the city on our own; we need our legislators' help. HB5455 will give our local Health Department the support they desperately need to help clean up our city.

Sincerely,

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