

Testimony in Support of HB-5455

Dear Connecticut General Assembly,

I commend you for taking up the long-overlooked and challenging issue of houses of prostitution operating under false pretenses as "massage parlors" across our great state of Connecticut, through HB 5455. Let's take our blinders off, let's no longer drive by pretending that we don't know what's going on or hustle our children along on the streets hoping they don't see these businesses or ask us questions that as adults we're embarrassed to answer. It is time, finally, to take action.

I moved to Connecticut about 10 years ago, initially to Fairfield. My husband (who is from the area) always had a love for the St. Mary's / Black Rock area, and I quickly fell for its charms as well. I remember when I first asked him about these massage parlors, and I realized that, for some completely inexplicable and opaque set of circumstances of reason, industry and seasoned denial and obfuscation, there were active houses of prostitution operating in plain sight in this beautiful neighborhood with no open outrage or government response.

I urge you to end this willful ignorance of illegal activity in our state, in our neighborhoods, and on the blocks where we walk with visitors from other countries, states and towns, and most importantly with our children for whom it is our duty to uphold the laws of this country. Thank you for empowering the Commissioner of Public Health to take action on behalf of all of us.

In full support of your courageous efforts today,

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