

Public Hearing Friday March 16, 2012

Senate Bill 372

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF BODY MODIFICATION SERVICES TO MINORS

To prohibit the provision of certain types of body modification services to a minor without the permission of the minor's parent or legal guardian.

Testimony

Dawn Amore-Diaz, Mother

Wolcott, CT

First I would like to extend my gratitude to Rep. Sampson for his diligence in getting this issue before you today.

I am submitting my Testimony today in support of Senate Bill 372, An Act concerning the provision of Body modification services to a minor without the permission of the minor's parent or legal guardian; with the proposed addition of the following verbiage: **, or (2) enlarge, or insert a device intended to enlarge, any body piercing or ear lobe piercing.**

My husband and I are the proud parents of five (5) children ranging from the age of 22 to 14.

I submit my testimony based on our experience of "EAR GAUGES" that were sold in the fall of 2011 by **Hot Topic** in the Brass City Mall, to my then 13 year old daughter.

My family had been on an outing to the mall. Thinking that we, my husband and I, were good parents, we allowed my daughter to shop in **Hot Topic** while we stood just outside the door watching her but allowing her a sense of independence. Having gone into the store numerous times before with our children, over the years, to purchase T-shirts & cartoon back packs we were familiar with the stores layout. Jewelry items and some other questionable items are located in the center of the store in a glass display case. My husband and I were aware of Hot Topic selling "Ear Gauges" but never saw signs that indicated that they could be sold to children under the age of 18 years of age.

My daughter purchased a t-shirt that day but without our knowledge she also bought "Ear Gauges". For those of you who are not familiar with this item I will describe it briefly: They are a type of item made from metal, hard rubber, wood and other types of material with the sole purpose of expanding/enlarging the earlobe to sizes as big as a saucer and in some instances, larger. They can be marketed to children, as was the pair my daughter bought, HELLO KITTY (a cartoon).

I hadn't noticed the Gauges in my daughters ears at first, since the gauge itself, had an insert of the HELLO KITTY cartoon which made the gauge appear to be a "button type earring" a young girl such as my daughter would wear. However, the next day as my daughter stood by our kitchen window, and the sun pierced through the hole, that had been enlarged by the "gauges", It was obvious!

Again, I wish to Thank Rep. Sampson for his diligence.

Thank you all for your time.

Respectfully,

Dawn Amore-Diaz

MOTHER

Wolcott, CT