

TESTIMONY OF HOUSE SPEAKER EMERITUS JAMES A. AMANN
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
Monday, March 19, 2012

*Testimony IN SUPPORT of Raised Bill Number 5504, An Act Concerning Commercial
Sexual Exploitation of a Minor*

For the record, my name is Jim Amann, former state representative from Milford and former Speaker of the state House of Representatives.

I would like to first thank Sen. Coleman, Rep. Fox and the members of the Judiciary Committee for bringing Raised Bill No. 5504, An Act Concerning Commercial Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, forward for public comment.

Issues of public safety were a passion of mine while I was here in the General Assembly. Megan's Law, Connecticut's online sex offender registry that gives parents the right to know about potential threats in their neighborhood, was one of my proudest achievements in the Legislature.

As House Speaker, I also convened a special task force on human trafficking after learning of the harrowing stories of real people, in some cases children, who had been bought and sold by those who wielded real and perceived power over their victims.

I vowed then to do something about these insidious arrangements, and I remain committed today to seeing the problem through to eradication.

Human and sex trafficking is one of today's quiet crises, taking place in our homes through the internet and in print publications that are widely accessible. I believe that as you learn more about these trafficking schemes, you will see Raised Bill No. 5504 as proponents do: a needed crime-fighting tool in a pitched, ongoing battle against human and sexual trafficking in Connecticut.

The bill is necessary because, more and more, traffickers – who otherwise operate in the shadows - are boldly promoting their wares through print and online "Escort" advertising.

As such, we believe that publishers hold some responsibility for the content that appears on their pages, especially if these "Escort" ads are proven to be a front for illicit sex trading. Simply, Raised Bill 5504 would make publishers of "Escort" advertisements criminally liable for exploitation of minors if the ads are found to promote sex trafficking schemes.

Online and print publishers, by applying rigorous standards for content, can help us fight this battle. In the absence of due diligence, they are part of the problem.

I would ask members of the committee for their support of Raised Bill 5504. Thank you again for your consideration, and I look forward to working with you moving forward.

second bill

From: **Patricia Shea** (pshealovell@gmail.com)
Sent: Mon 3/12/12 7:31 AM
To: **Jim Amann** (jimamann@hotmail.com); **Win Smith** (win@DeySmith.com)

General Assembly

Raised Bill No. 5505**February Session, 2012**

LCO No. 2211

02211 _____ JUD

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

Introduced by:

(JUD)

AN ACT CONCERNING INDECENT EXPOSURE TO PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF SIXTEEN.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Section 53a-186 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2012*):

(a) A person is guilty of public indecency in the second degree when [he] such person performs any of the following acts in a public place: (1) An act of sexual intercourse as defined in subdivision (2) of section 53a-65; or (2) a lewd exposure of the body with intent to arouse or to satisfy the sexual desire of the person; or (3) a lewd fondling or caress of the body of another person. For the purposes of this section, "public place" means any place where the conduct may reasonably be expected to be viewed by others.

(b) Public indecency in the second degree is a class B misdemeanor.

Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2012*) (a) A person is guilty of public indecency in the first degree when such person commits public indecency in the second degree as provided in section 53a-186 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, knowing that such conduct will be viewed by a person under sixteen years of age.

(b) Public indecency in the first degree is a class D felony.

Sec. 3. Subdivision (2) of section 54-250 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2012*):

(2) "Criminal offense against a victim who is a minor" means (A) a violation of subdivision (2) of section 53-21 of the general statutes in effect prior to October 1, 2000, subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 53-21, subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 53a-70, subdivision (1), (4), (8) or (10) or subparagraph (B) of subdivision (9) of subsection (a) of section 53a-71, subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 53a-

72a, subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 53a-86, subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 53a-87, section 53a-90a, section 2 of this act, 53a-196a, 53a-196b, 53a-196c, 53a-196d, 53a-196e or 53a-196f, (B) a violation of subparagraph (A) of subdivision (9) of subsection (a) of section 53a-71 or section 53a-92, 53a-92a, 53a-94, 53a-94a, 53a-95, 53a-96 or 53a-186, as amended by this act, provided the court makes a finding that, at the time of the offense, the victim was under eighteen years of age, (C) a violation of any of the offenses specified in subparagraph (A) or (B) of this subdivision for which a person is criminally liable under section 53a-8, 53a-48 or 53a-49, or (D) a violation of any predecessor statute to any offense specified in subparagraph (A), (B) or (C) of this subdivision the essential elements of which are substantially the same as said offense.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2012</i>	53a-186
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2012</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2012</i>	54-250(2)

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