



30 Bank Street
PO Box 350
New Britain
CT 06050-0350
06051 for 30 Bank Street
P: (860) 223-4400
F: (860) 223-4488

Testimony of Barbara J. Collins
Connecticut Bar Association
Chair, Human Rights and Responsibility Section

In SUPPORT of HB 5666

**An Act Concerning the Forfeiture of Moneys and Property
Related to Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking**

Judiciary Committee
April 5, 2013

Thank you for allowing me to address our position today regarding our **support** of HB 5666, An Act Concerning the Forfeiture of Moneys and Property Related to Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking.

I am Barbara J. Collins, Chair of the Human Rights and Responsibility Section of the Connecticut Bar Association. I am here to speak in favor of the proposed Act concerning the forfeiture of moneys and property related to sexual exploitation and human trafficking. The Human Rights Section has come before this body many times before to discuss issues that protect basic rights of the citizens of this State. Protection against sexual exploitation and human trafficking is one such basic right. Both our section and the American Bar Association have made elimination of such despicable behavior a priority.

Therefore it is welcomed that the Connecticut General Assembly has recognized that the problem of human trafficking is real and exists even in Connecticut. Human Trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery where people profit from the control and exploitation of others. Because most of this slavery takes place out of the sight of the public, statistics are hard to confirm but it is believed that 80 percent of the human-trafficking victims internationally are women and children and of that figure it is believed that nearly one-half are children and teens under the age of 18. These are the people who are least likely to be able to escape this modern day slavery and end up on the streets or in the seedy motels of Connecticut as prostitutes where they are exploited by their pimps and their johns. For too long, the public was able to ignore this issue and assume that it did not happen in our fair state. The General Assembly is to be applauded for showering light upon the issue and bringing the victims from the shadows.

The Human Rights Section of the CBA supports HB 5666 as a first step in eliminating the existence of economic incentives for sexual exploitation and human trafficking. This problem will not go away until it is no longer economically attractive to exploit young children and women. This Act seeks to do that while still retaining basic due process rights for those arrested and in danger of losing their assets.

We strongly urge the passage of this bill and similar legislation proposed this year in the Legislature.