

Steve Ferraro [ctabolitionist@aol.com]

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Committee Members,

I am writing to express my support for Bill 5666. As volunteer abolitionists, my wife and I have been blessed to work with many professionals in law enforcement, the Department of Children and Families and many NGO's. We can say from our first hand experience that as a society and as a state, we are woefully under educated, under trained and under prepared to deal with the realities of human trafficking in our state.

For example, there are insufficient monies to train all of law enforcement which allows the problem to be perpetuated. Victims more likely to be arrested for prostitution then rescued from their captors by an untrained law enforcement community. There are many dedicated employees of DCF who because of budget cuts are forced to do their work on human trafficking on their own time. As heinous a crime as human trafficking is against children and women, the DCF should have fully funded full time employees dedicated to this. Lastly there aren't anywhere near the treatment resources available in Connecticut as there ought to be. We can estimate the hundreds or thousands of women and children that have been or are currently being trafficked in our state, but we do not have a dedicated facility or safe house nor do we ave a professional staff to help restore their bodies and souls.

We believe Bill 5666 is crucial to using the ill gotten gains obtained by the trafficker and make them available to support the victims and to prevent further souls from being trafficked. Thank you for your consideration.

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