



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE GAYLE MULLIGAN
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Government Administration and Elections Committee
Public Testimony
Wednesday, February 25th, 2015

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 5793, AN ACT ESTABLISHING SAFE HAVEN DAY.

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Cassano, Representative Jutila; Vice Chairs Senator Gerratana, Representative Alexander; Ranking Members Senator McLachlan, Representative Smith; and esteemed members of the Committee. My name is Gayle Mulligan and I proudly represent the 55th district, serving the wonderful towns of Andover, Bolton, Hebron and Marlborough. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 5793.

Since it was enacted in 2000, the state's Safe Haven Law has saved the lives of 24 babies whose mother's made the choice to leave their newborn child at a hospital emergency room in the first 30 days of life without the threat of prosecution for abandonment or risk of injury to a child or worse. Also, if the mother has a change of heart, she may return to the hospital and take her baby back anytime with the first 90 days of life. However, this past August a tragic death of a newborn in East Hartford by a distressed mother occurred simply because she didn't know about the Safe Haven Law and that she had another option which would not result in the loss of a life. This terrible tragedy ignited a passion in former State Representative Pam Sawyer, the one who fought so hard to pass this law in the first place. HB 5793 seeks to make a concerted effort to bring about awareness that women have choices and can save two lives; their newborn child and their own. The bill will provide the opportunity to continue each year to remind women (parents) that this law exists and that they in fact have a viable, better choice and help prevent any more loss of life. In addition, this proposed bill would have no budgetary impact.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gayle Mulligan
State Representative
55th District