



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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MEMBER  
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### Joint Committee on Judiciary Public Testimony

#### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 5607

Good Morning Co-Chairs Senator Coleman, Representative Tong; Vice Chairs Senator Doyle, Representative Fox; Ranking Members Senator Kissel, Representative Rebimbas; and esteemed members of the Committee.

My name is Christopher Davis, and I represent the 57<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, which includes East Windsor and Ellington. Thank you for raising this bill, and for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 5607 AN ACT CONCERNING FILM DEVELOPERS AND CAMERA REPAIR PERSONS AS MANDATED REPORTERS in order to add persons who repair cameras or develop or print film, recordings or images to the list of mandated reporters.

This proposal is based on a California law that includes film and photo developers as mandatory reporters in their state. As we all know, child pornography and abuse are deplorable crimes that, when left unchecked, can destroy lives of innocent boys and girls, leaving lifelong psychological and physical effects. The bill before you does not require the business or its employees to search for the abuse, but rather, mandates that if they happen upon it in their course of business, that they are required to report it. We must imagine that someone who comes across these horrific images or videos would already report them; however, if nothing less, this bill would extend the legal and moral obligation to an additional set of observers that can add to law enforcement's tool set against child abusers.

Though the current language of the bill is an important step in helping fight against this type of atrocious crime, I would ask that the committee also consider adding computer and mobile electronic device technicians to the list of mandatory reporters as well. According to law enforcement, often times, these images are no longer printed and are instead saved on hard drives or other storage devices that potentially could be observed by a computer or mobile electronic device technician as well.

If we can save one more child from being abused, our efforts regarding this bill will be well worth it.