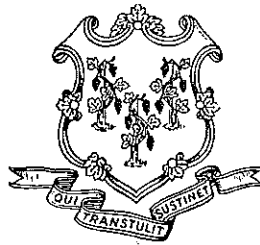


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State of Connecticut
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Judiciary Committee
April 1, 2019
LOB 2C 10:00 AM

In **SUPPORT** of House Bill 7399
*An Act Concerning Legal Protections for the Victims of Human Trafficking
and the Protection of Minors from Cyber Exploitation*

Chairman Winfield, Chairman Stafstrom, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee, I am here to testify in **support** of House Bill 7399, *An Act Concerning Legal Protections for the Victims of Human Trafficking and the Protection of Minors from Cyber Exploitation*.

My name is Cathy Osten and I represent the 19th Senate District, which includes the Towns of Columbia, Franklin, Hebron, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Marlborough, Montville, Norwich, and Sprague.

As you may know, earlier this session, I introduced Senate Bill 651, *An Act Prohibiting The Offering Of Sleeping Accommodations At Hotels, Motels Or Similar Lodgings At An Hourly Rate And Requiring That Users Of Such Places Of Public Accommodation Provide The Operator With Positive Proof Of Identification*, that would have barred operators of a hotel, motel, or similar lodging from offering an hourly rate for any sleeping accommodation by such establishment. My bill would also have required hotel operators to establish the identity of a patron by asking to see a driver's license, passport, or another valid form of identification, provided such includes a photograph. I believe that these two small legislative changes, working in tandem, will have a huge impact in curbing human trafficking in Connecticut.

While I am supportive of the legislation pending before you today, I believe we need to amend House Bill 7399 with these additional provisions. We need to strengthen our statutes to prevent instances of human trafficking from occurring in our state at these locales.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in **support** of House Bill 7399. I look forward to working with the leadership and members of this committee on this bill's passage as amended.