

February 13th, 2019

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My name is Kadi Doumbia, I am from West Africa, Mali. I am a survivor of Female Genital Mutilation, (FGM). I was cut when I was under 5 years old. I can testify that FGM is a very unfortunate thing that was forced onto me when I was a defenseless little girl and I do not wish it to anyone else. I am a mother of two young women and for many years, America was my place of refuge, a country where I knew that my children would be protected against FGM. I sacrificed so much in effort to protect them. I have been advocating against the practice of FGM for over twenty years. I have testified in Connecticut in the past during the State Hearing in support of passing a stronger law against FGM., I have testified in Minnesota., and I have shared my personal heart breaking FGM story with Story Corps at Chicago Cultural Center. FGM is physically, psychologically, mentally, and emotionally damaging to girls and women. I am in my mid-50s, and I still have flashbacks about FGM. It is horrifying for me to see that FGM is here in the US. I strongly believe that FGM a horrific crim and must be treated as such in the entire world and especially in the US. Together, we must protect all children, educate people about the effects of FGM, convince and change the mindset of the population who practice it.

I am supporting the Bill SB 505 and I strongly believe that everyone should.

Respectfully,

Kadi Doumbia

**Testimony
available for
public review in**

**Judiciary Committee
Room 2500**