

**Peterson, Bobbye**

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**From:** Leslie Lebl <leslie.lebl@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 12, 2019 6:48 PM  
**To:** JudTestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in favor of SB 505

Dear Sir/Madam:

I urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to pass SB 505, An Act Prohibiting Female Genital Mutilation.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has opposed Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) for over 20 years, noting that it constitutes a violation of the human rights of girls, women and children. WHO states unequivocally that the procedure provides no health benefits. On the contrary, FGM can cause serious complications, including death, as it interferes with the natural functions of the bodies of girls, often young children, and women.

This position has the support of the UN General Assembly as well as UNICEF. The State of Connecticut should pass legislation ensuring that the practices in our state meet this minimum international standard.

Sincerely,  
Leslie S. Lebl  
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Woodbury, CT 06798