

To: Senator Gary A. Winfield, Co-Chair
Representative Steven J. Stafstrom, Co-Chair
Senator Alexandra Bergstein, Vice Chair
Representative Matt Blumenthal, Vice Chair
Senator John A. Kissel, Ranking Member
Representative Rosa C. Rebimbas, Ranking Member

From: Pam Lucashu, Durham, CT

Re: SB 505 Prohibit Female Genital Mutilation

Senator Daugherty Winfield and Representative Stafstrin, Senator Bergstein and Representative Blumenthal, Senator Kissel and Representative Rebimbas and Members of the Judiciary Committee, **I ask you to vote yes on SB 505, An Act Prohibiting Female Genital Mutilation.**

Female genital mutilation [FGM] has been condemned by the World Health Organization [WHO] because of the serious physical health and mental risks associated with it. It “has no health benefits, can cause grave harm, and violates the rights of girls and women.”¹ Risks include “life-long bleeding, problems urinating, infections or even death.”²

Despite the fact that federal law prohibits FGM, the number of girls and young women at risk continues to rise. For girls under the age of 18, that risk has increased four times previous estimates that began in 1996.³

State laws outlawing FGM strengthen the message against the practice and can fill gaps in the federal law, as well as discouraging travel to another state to obtain the service.

I urge you to vote yes on SB 505, and protect the human rights of vulnerable girls.

¹ <http://www.dw.com/en/who-issues-guidelines-to-treat-200-million-female-genital-mutilation-victims/a-19261191>

² Id.

³ <https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Humanitarian/Special%20Situations/fgmutilation.pdf>