

Peter Wolfgang, President  
Family Institute of Connecticut Action  
Testimony in opposition to SB1117



As President of Family Institute of Connecticut Action, I stand in support of SB 1117, AN ACT PROVIDING PROTECTIONS FOR PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN TRAFFICKED AND ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO PREVENT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS , but strongly urge this Committee and the General Assembly to amend, and mandate and enforce a requirement for proof of residency and age for women seeking abortion services. This would be an additional measure to prevent trafficking in minor persons.

According to a 2018 report, the Connecticut Human Anti-trafficking Response Team (HART) documented more than 1,000 children as possible victims of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking. Forced abortions are part of that equation. To make matters worse, HB 6618, if passed, could provide free abortions for out-of-state victims of sexual abuse and could invite more abuse, shields traffickers and even subsidize their business. If Connecticut's legislators open the door for this, then they must prove to their constituents that they are ensuring the safety of these minors.

A minor's travel to CT for an abortion should raise red flags for an abortion provider to take extra time to counsel her, or any minor that requests an abortion, and ensure that she has not been coerced to engage in sex or to have an abortion. The minor should be counseled by at least two healthcare workers to provide levels of questioning and support. This would require a change to the current counseling law already in state statute.

I was asked to provide data at a public hearing on HB 6618, but that data is not to be found except through a government mandate. It is within the purview and power of the Connecticut General Assembly to see this data is accurately collected. This onus is on the General Assembly and the CT Department of Public Health to require abortion providers to provide complete and accurate records

that will help curtail the trafficking in minor persons. If incomplete records are produced, then these providers should not receive state funding and should face a fine for each incomplete record.

Please support and amend SB 1117.

**Connection between Sex-trafficking and Abortion:**

<https://www.care-net.org/abundant-life-blog/researchers-uncover-disturbing-link-between-sex-trafficking-and-abortion>

**CT Human Trafficking grade “F”:**

[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DCF/HumanTrafficking/pdf/90CA1828-01-00-DCF\\_HART\\_Final-Report-January-2020.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DCF/HumanTrafficking/pdf/90CA1828-01-00-DCF_HART_Final-Report-January-2020.pdf)