



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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Committee on Judiciary  
March 5, 2026

**Testimony in Support of H.B. 5309**  
**An Act Concerning The Provision Of Notice To A Parent Or Guardian Of A Minor Child Who Seeks To Receive Pregnancy-Related Health Care Services**

Co-Chairs Senator Winfield and Representative Stafstrom, Ranking Members Senator Kissel and Representative Fishbein; and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in support of H.B. 5309, An Act Concerning The Provision Of Notice To A Parent Or Guardian Of A Minor Child Who Seeks To Receive Pregnancy-Related Health Care Services. Abortion is a medical procedure with real physical, emotional, and psychological implications. It involves informed consent, understanding of risks and alternatives, and in some cases management of complications. In nearly every other comparable situation, physicians are ethically and legally expected to involve parents or legal guardians in the care of minors. As a mother of two daughters, their physical and psychological and emotional well-being is my ultimate moral charge and responsibility.

H.B. 5309 does not eliminate access to abortion. Rather, it restores a consistent ethical standard: that parents, who are legally, financially, and morally responsible for their children's well-being, should be notified when their minor child is undergoing a significant medical procedure. Family support often improves patient outcomes — emotionally, psychologically, and medically. Excluding parents from such decisions creates an unusual and egregious exception in healthcare practice. Without notification, you are also stripping parents of their role and their responsibility for their children and their health.

Adolescence is a period of ongoing neurocognitive development. Executive function, long-term planning, and risk assessment continue maturing into early adulthood. While minors can and do make meaningful decisions, the law has long recognized that additional safeguards are appropriate in high stakes medical contexts. I also recognize that not all family situations are safe. Any parental notification policy should include a carefully structured judicial bypass option for minors who face abuse, coercion,

or neglect. Such safeguards protect vulnerable patients while maintaining the general principle of parental involvement. Please support this important legislation!

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Irene Haines". The signature is written in a cursive style with a vertical line to its right.

Irene Haines  
State Representative - 34th Assembly District