

## PARENTAL NOTIFICATION

### Written Testimony Before The Judiciary Committee

Connecticut General Assembly

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My name is Adam Kissel. I am a visiting lecturer at Trinity College (Hartford) and visiting fellow at The Heritage Foundation. The views I express here are my own and should not be construed as representing any organization with which I am affiliated.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my support for H.B. No. 5309 concerning the provision of notice to a parent or guardian of a minor child who seeks to receive an abortion.<sup>1</sup>

In short: *Parents—not the government—best know the best interest of their minor child.*

And parents or guardians can best counsel a minor child about her best interest.

To handle contrary situations, H.B. No. 5309 sufficiently provides for notification of other close relatives and for minors to petition a court for waiver of the notification requirement.

Such laws are now common in America. And they are effective. Heritage’s Robert Rector notes:

In 1992, some 20 states had parental notification or consent laws. By 2022, the number was 36. Overall, some 19 studies have analyzed the impact of parental notification and consent laws on teen abortion rates. Nearly all show that these laws have a statistically significant effect in reducing abortion rates. On average, they find that the policy leads to a 15% to 20% reduction in the rates of in-state teen abortions for girls under 17.<sup>2</sup>

Scholar Michael J. New adds that “the two best studies on parental involvement laws that track, and compare, both in-state and out-of-state minor abortions, each show that the in-state abortion decline significantly exceeds the out-of-state increase.”<sup>3</sup>

Parental consent would be better than mere notification, but this law nevertheless will save lives. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2026/TOB/H/PDF/2026HB-05309-R00-HB.PDF>

<sup>2</sup> Robert Rector, “Marriage, Abortion, and Welfare,” The Heritage Foundation, <https://www.heritage.org/welfare/report/marriage-abortion-and-welfare>, n. 56, citing Michael J. New, “Analyzing the Impact of U.S. Antiabortion Legislation in the Post-Casey Era: A Reassessment,” *State Politics & Policy Quarterly*, 14:3 (Sept. 2014), p. 231, <https://www.jillstaneck.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/SPPQ-New-2014-2.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> New, p. 231.