

Connecticut Commission on
Women, Children *and* Seniors



CWCS

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Statement*

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CONTACT: Christine Palm, Public Information Officer at 860/240-8449; or 860/836-2145

RE: Passage of H.B. 7309: An Act Concerning Human Trafficking

DATE: 5-26-17

FROM: Christine Palm, *Communications and Women's Policy Analyst, CWCS*

“Passage of this bill sends an unequivocal message to those who pay to have sex with minors that Connecticut won’t stand for such abuse. By raising the penalty for the commercial sexual abuse of a child under 15 from a Class C to a Class A felony, we are deterring the ‘demand side’ of this abominable crime. This is great news to come out of the General Assembly – especially now – whose bipartisan, unanimous support for this legislation is a hallmark of compassionate and sensible lawmaking.”

FROM: Jillian Gilchrest, *Director, Health Professional Outreach of CCADV, and Chair, Trafficking in Persons Council*

“We know that increased risk and consequence deter someone from buying sex. With unanimous passage of HB 7309, lawmakers have achieved both. Now, when someone pays to sexually abuse a child they face a charge of 'commercial sexual abuse of a minor,' and an increased penalty of either a Class A or B felony. This legislation also increases the penalty for trafficking to better align with federal charges, requires massage parlors and nail salons to post signage about trafficking, addresses the mental healthcare needs of victims, and requires training of professionals who are essential in the work to prevent and address human trafficking.”