

# General Law Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No:** SB-116 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

**Title:** AN ACT CONCERNING THE PREVENTION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

**Vote Date:** 3/11/2026

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 2/18/2026

**File No.:**

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

## SPONSORS OF BILL

General Law Committee per request of Sen. Osten

## REASONS FOR BILL

This bill intends to improve enforcement of human trafficking prevention statutes currently in effect in Connecticut. As Sen. Osten notes in her written testimony, while the State has taken steps to prevent human trafficking, current statutes lack oversight and enforcement mechanisms. This bill intends to remedy that situation and provide better protection for people in Connecticut.

## SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE

The substitute language (LCO 2860) addresses various issues brought to the committee's attention during the committee process. To streamline information availability, the substitute language requires the Department of Revenue Services (DRS) to post information to its website rather than give it to DCP. It addresses DCP's cost concerns by transferring certain enforcement authority to municipalities.

## RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY

[Bryan Cafferelli, Commissioner, Department of Consumer Protection](#) writes that DCP supports the bill's efforts to ensure compliance with human trafficking training requirements for hotels, motels, inns and other lodging. He notes that the bill adds penalties for establishments that fail to comply with existing statute, and this would create a new enforcement responsibility for DCP. He expresses that DCP does not have the resources to conduct these enforcement efforts, as they are not provided in the governor's budget adjustments.

[TJ Nuccio, Children's Policy Analyst, The Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity](#) (CWCSEO) supports the bill, citing the rise in regional human trafficking investigations between 2022 and 2024. CWCSEO notes that hotels/motels are identified as the most common site of trafficking due to their affordability and privacy. They testify that while Connecticut has taken important steps, there are still gaps that need to be closed, and SB 116 can help. CWCSEO explains that these issues remain in oversight and enforcement and that this bill would help to strengthen recordkeeping requirements, mandate employee training, and make sure that training is properly documented, monitored and retained. CWCSEO expresses that clear penalties and designated enforcement authorities are essential in order to close these gaps. According to the Commission, "S.B. 116 closes these gaps by placing the oversight of the compliances and enforcement logistics under the Department of Consumer Protection."

#### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

[Sen. Cathy Osten, 19th Dist., Connecticut General Assembly](#) supports this bill as it provides a single regulator for identifying human trafficking, helping law enforcement prevent it, and to inform victims of their rights. She notes that implementing this bill will improve the running of lodging as there is currently no oversight or enforcement mechanism. She states that having DCP as an oversight agency will allow for avoidance of "duplicative efforts" and allow for a more thorough assessment of a business that may be problematic.

[Sarah Bratko, Vice President & Policy Counsel, American Hotel & Lodging Association](#) is in support of the bill as it would amend the requirements for human trafficking prevention training in hotels. She expresses that these updates to the law will help capture current best practices and help to ensure conformity across the country.

#### **Requested amendments:**

While in support of SB116, she asks the committee to consider key amendments to bring Connecticut law into alignment with best practices in other states.

- Expand the training mandate to short-term rentals
- Amend the penalty structure to permit fines to a certain amount, but allow discretion
- Clarify the trainings must be completed within a certain amount of time from when an employee is hired
- Allow exemptions for the hourly room rental discount in selected situations
- Amend the language surrounding record inspection

[Natasha M. Pierre, Esq., Victim Advocate, Office of the Victim Advocate](#) is in support of this bill, citing a report in 2024 that found 96 trafficking cases and 170 potential victims, with motels/hotels being among the top venues for sex trafficking. She highlighted the key recommendations being prioritizing of prevention policy, enhancing data collection and reporting mechanisms and developing more in-depth screenings and identification protocols. She expresses that S.B. 116 gets to "the heart of the recommendations" as it requires oversight from the commissioner of Revenue Services and the Commissioner of Consumer Protection. She emphasizes that we as a state need to remain in the forefront of prevention, prosecuting and identifying trafficking in all forms.

[Zachary van Luling, Town Councilor](#) & [Miriam Lifshitz, Deputy Mayor](#)

These individuals submitted written testimony in support of the bill, with van Luling writing the testimony and Lifshitz-Theroux co-signing. He writes that the bill will help fight human trafficking by making hotels and motels follow clearly outlined rules. He explains that traffickers often use these places because people can stay anonymously for short periods, and staff may not be trained to notice warning signs. The bill would improve coordination between state agencies, require better recordkeeping and staff training, limit very short stays that could help hide trafficking, and allow the department of Consumer Protection to make sure businesses follow the rules. He says the bill will not completely stop trafficking, but it will make it harder for traffickers to operate.

[Karolin Falk](#) submitted written testimony in support of SB 116. She notes that human trafficking impacts highly vulnerable populations, and she states that prevention is a human rights issue. She notes that training is especially important given our state's location along major highways and expresses appreciation for the bill's major provisions.

The following individuals expressed support for the bill:

[Tita Castro](#)

[Tobe Stalling](#)

[Donna Farland](#)

[Maric Pittman](#)

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION**

None recorded.

**Reported by: Megan Oros**

**Date: March 19, 2026**