

Testimony in support of H5563: Human Trafficking Prevention Notice and Training Act

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To Chair Solomon and the honorable Members of the House Corporations Committee:

Please oppose H5563. Though its goals are admirable, the processes by how to accomplish them are unreasonable and undoable. I speak specifically to the section on Short-term Rentals, Since these rentals are made via on-line platforms, the owners/managers of a property may never see the tenants. Since arrangements are made virtually, there is no way to verify the relationships between tenants, i.e. are adults and children really family members or are they not; are two couples really two couples or are two of the four people being exploited by the other two? If the owner/manager never sees the tenants, what do you really expect them to be able to do to prevent trafficking? They can no more prevent trafficking than domestic violence or incest from occurring in that rental. Thus, this bill places an untenable burden on owners/managers of short-term rentals, and does nothing to prevent trafficking.