

**End FGM in Connecticut Sample Support Letter**

**Subject:** End Female Genital Mutilation in Conneticut

**Sample Text:**

I am writing to urge you to raise and pass comprehensive legislation to end female genital mutilation (FGM) in Connecticut. S786 and HB6534, placeholder bills introduced by Senator John Kissel and Representative Johnathan Steinberg, respectively, have been filed in the Senate and House, and now the Joint Committee on Judiciary must act. Unlike 40 other states, including its neighbors, Connecticut has yet to ban FGM, making it a target destination for this harmful practice. Comprehesive legislation would include criminal penalties for FGM, a program of education and prevention, and a civil cause of action for survivors, among other provisions.

Based on recent research commissioned by AHA Foundation, initial estimates show approximately 3,917 women and girls are potentially impacted by FGM in Connecticut. The World Health Organization recognizes FGM as a human rights abuse and reports that FGM has no health benefits and can cause serious and often lifelong physical and psychological health problems, such as recurrent bladder and urinary tract infections, cysts, infertility, and complications during intercourse and childbirth. I therefore urge you to raise and pass comprehensive legislation, and support the girls and survivors impacted by FGM in Connecticut.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,