



Human Trafficking in Connecticut

Raising awareness at truck stops on I-95

Readers of the *CYL Alert* know that we support three pieces of legislation about human trafficking in Connecticut. As of June 1, HB5666 and HB6696 were on a path to Governor Malloy's desk for his signature.

Among other things, the bills would "...increase the penalty for patronizing a prostitute who is under the age of 18; vacate the convictions for prostitution involving victims of trafficking; and address the forfeiture of money and property used in, or obtained from, human

trafficking." The path to the governor's desk seems a little less certain for SB1158. Among other things, the bill would "...require liquor permit premises and truck stops to display notices" about human trafficking.

SB1158 is important to members of the Center for Youth Leadership (CYL) because they have seen first hand how important it is for information to be posted at truck stops. For more than a year members of CYL have been visiting truck stops on I-95 in Fairfield and Milford to

hand out material to truck drivers and others (*Mallory Ham in photo above with a truck driver at the Fairfield rest area at 6:30 AM on May 30*). The material includes definitions, a hotline number and signs that a teen at a truck stop may be a victim of human trafficking.

"One trucker - from Baltimore - talked to us about how alert he is to things that seems out of place at rest areas," said Mallory. "His response to our work was similar to what we usually get - interest, experiences and a lot of thanks."