

Dear Judiciary Committee,

My name is Dr, Courtney K. Rowe and I am a pediatric urologist who practices in Hartford. I also serve on the CT-American Academy of Pediatrics Chapter board which represents over 600 pediatrics in CT.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on S B 1438 AN ACT PROHIBITING FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION. Female genital mutilation or cutting (FGM/C) involves medically unnecessary cutting of parts or all of the external female genitalia. FGM/C can cause [great morbidity](#) throughout an individual's life. [The American Academy of Pediatrics](#) has consistently opposed ritual female genital cutting. The CT-AAP Chapter supports the goal of SB1438 to protect children from these custom-based practices.

However, it is important for this bill to focus on protecting those intended, without risking interfering with evidence-based medical care for other populations, whether they have urologic, gynecologic, or obstetric concerns. The language of the bill must ensure that it reduces the risk of interfering with appropriate medical care. Decisions regarding how to provide medically appropriate care for patients with complex medical and social needs should remain in the purview of the family and expert medical team

Thank you for considering my testimony and I would be happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Courtney K. Rowe', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Courtney K. Rowe, MD