



July 22, 2008

Hon. David A. Paterson
Governor of the State of New York
Executive Chamber
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Paterson:

The Women's City Club of New York urges you to sign the Safe Harbor for Exploited Children Act that has been passed by both the Senate and Assembly.

The Women's City Club is a nonprofit, nonpartisan multi-issue organization that has shaped public policy through education, advocacy and citizen participation since 1915. We supported the anti-trafficking bill that passed the legislature last year, and this bill is an important addendum to that law.

We now know that young women in prostitution are often victims of trafficking. It will be a positive change to no longer prosecute young girls for sexual acts but to treat them as the victims they are. This law would create short-term safe houses and community services for children less than 17 years of age which would put them on a pathway to a better life.

We hope you will agree with our assessment and promptly sign this legislation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ruth E. Acker
President

Marjorie Ives
Chair, Women's Issues Committee