

SENATE JUDICIARY
Exhibit No. 8
Date 2/6/15
SB 199

February 6, 2015

Good morning Chairman Sales, members of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

We would like to thank you Senator Taylor and the co-sponsors of SB 199 for their efforts.

I am here today to ask you to support SB 199. Please allow me to address "why we need this Bill".

Why do we need this Bill? – is it not self-explanatory that we would only use US and State Law in our courts?

First, this is not always so. Most states merely state that foreign laws and judgments that violate the state's "public policy" shall not be recognized. But the courts consistently rule that the state legislature has the responsibility to articulate clearly what the state's public policy actually is. So our State Legislature definitely has a role to play in preserving constitutional rights and American values of liberty and freedom.

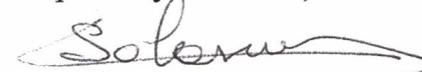
Second, there are actually many cases on the books in which foreign laws and foreign legal doctrines were invoked by parties to a dispute. The Center of Security Policy recent study found 50 legal cases across 23 states, all published appellate cases. The cases involved foreign law from 16 countries.

These cases are the stories of foreign families, mostly women and children, who were asking American courts to preserve their rights to equal protection and due process. These families came to America for freedom and protection from the discriminatory and cruel laws of their birth countries. When our courts then apply foreign law in the lives of these families, and deny them equal protection, they are betraying the principles on which America was founded.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Please vote in support of SB 199.

Respectfully submitted,


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