



moving victims of violence from crisis to confidence

Brooke McMurray
Chair

Ariel Zwang
Chief Executive Officer

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express Safe Horizon's support for Bill **S1209/A3856**.

As Program Director for an outreach program and drop-in center for homeless young adults, I regularly encourage the use of condoms and encourage young people to carry enough condoms to ensure they have the materials to engage in safer sex.

This practice is supported by every responsible public health agency including most health departments in our country. Becoming familiar with condoms is an important first step to engaging in safer sex for young adults and easy availability of condoms opens dialogues between sex partners about the need to prevent STI's. Condom distribution is an invaluable intervention that creates opportunities for sexually active youth to learn about sex, disease prevention, and ethical interpersonal behavior from peers, mentoring adults, outreach workers and social workers.

Allowing condoms to be used as evidence in criminal prosecution for prostitution flies in the face of common-sense public health and deters youth from acting in a sexually responsible way. If young people are afraid to carry condoms for fear of prosecution, they will likely engage in unsafe sex.

Please note my agency's support for this bill.

Sincerely,

John Welch
Program Director
Safe Horizon Streetwork Lower East Side