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Good Morning Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor and Members of the Judiciary Committee. I am here to testify in support of SB 1433, An Act Concerning Alcohol Education and Treatment for Persons Arrested for Drunken Driving.

This bill has two important provisions addressing the alcohol education program which is available pursuant to a person's first arrest for driving under the influence. First, the bill would amend subsection (b) of section 54-56g to provide the courts with discretion to require monthly follow-up sessions for up to a year after the offender has completed the alcohol education program. This provision would be extraordinarily useful for those offenders dealing with substance abuse addiction because it is well known that substance abuse recovery does not generally occur with the first attempt. Through this additional supervision we

might be able to bring substance abusers from the pre-contemplation and contemplation stages forward into the preparation, action, and maintenance stages of recovery as described by physicians and medical researchers specializing in the treatment of addiction. A year-long supervision would not only make our roads safer, but would also assist these residents of our state to avoid backsliding.

Secondly, this bill would amend subsection (f) of section 54-56g to make the alcohol education program available to a person who holds a commercial driver's license (CDL) but who commits a violation while driving his or her personal vehicle. This addresses a problem that was created by Public Act 06-130. Clearly, holders of CDLs should be held to a higher standard when they are driving a commercial motor vehicle (CMV). However, it is arbitrary to penalize the holder of a CDL when that person is not driving a CMV at the time of the offense. This is a change which would reflect our commitment to equal protection under the law by not denying a diversion and treatment option to a resident simply because that person is the holder of a CDL.

I believe that both provisions of this bill have significant merit, and I urge you to act favorably on this legislation.