



# State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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**MEMBER**  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

## *Testimony by Representative Pam Sawyer*

General Law Committee

*Proposed House Bill 5390*

February 13, 2009 10:00 Room 1E

### **RE: AA Streamlining The State's Permitting And Professional Certification Processes**

Good morning Chairmen Colapietro and Shapiro, Ranking Members Witkos and Bacchiochi, and members of the General Law Committee. For the record, I am Representative Pam Sawyer, representing the 55th District. I am here today to speak **in favor of Proposed House Bill 5390**.

I have had numerous conversations with constituents through the years on the problem regarding **great delays** in processing of licensure applications and permits at the Department of Consumer Protection, the State Department of Education, and other state agencies.

The need is urgent. There are residents who worked hard to obtain all the training necessary to get into the workforce **BUT CANNOT**, because they are unable obtain their certificate or license in a timely manner from the state.

- It should not take a licensed plumber moving into CT from out of state over 6 months to get a license.
- A special education teacher from NY with over 5 years experience moved in March could not get her teaching certificate by November. Exasperated, she had to ask for help from my office. Her paperwork was complete with the original application! She had a job given to her in Hartford in March that she could not receive full salary for because of the state delay.
- A home daycare provider may take up to a year to get her licensure!

That is just wrong. When citizens jump through all of the hoops the state places on professionals, they

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should be treated respectfully and in a timely manner, particularly now more than ever in these tough economic times.

*A fast turnaround time to get people their licenses is essential and can be made through:*

- *A review of the agency permitting process.*
- *Efficiencies made wherever possible.*
- *Cross training of personnel to handle high volume periods.*
- *Set a goal of a 30 day turnaround time.*

I am open to amending my proposed bill to ensure that improvements to the licensure and permit processes can be made within available budget resources.