

Michael Day
North East Region Manager – Alcohol Monitoring Systems
Testimony in Support of SB 660
An Act Requiring Drunken Drivers to Maintain a Period of
Continuous Sobriety

Good morning Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor and Members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary. My name is Michael Day and I am the North East Region Manager for Alcohol Monitoring Systems. As a company focused on Continuous Alcohol Monitoring, our five year history has been committed to providing solutions to reduce alcohol related offenses by recidivism rates. Our programs change offender behavior and save money.

Support:

The National Center for State Courts recently conducted a thorough examination of the Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitor or SCRAM bracelet – a continuous alcohol monitoring device - to determine its effectiveness in monitoring for Continuous Sobriety and reducing recidivism while it was worn and after it was removed. While wearing the SCRAM device 98% of the offenders did not commit a new offense, while second and subsequent convicted drunk drivers, the same population being addressed in SB 660, saw a **decrease in recidivism by 45%** compared to a 35% increase in recidivism for offenders that did not maintain a period of continuous sobriety.

Company Information:

Since 2003, Continuous Alcohol Monitoring programs utilizing the SCRAM device have been fully implemented in 46 States and in over 1800 jurisdictions to monitor over 80,000 offenders to ensure they are maintaining a period of continuous sobriety. Jurisdictions utilizing Continuous Alcohol Monitoring programs with the SCRAM device include but are not limited to; The District Attorney's of New York City's five Boroughs, The Department of Corrections of the State of Vermont, The Attorney General's Office of the State of South Dakota, The Attorney General's Office of the State of North Dakota, The City and County of Denver, The Department of Corrections of the State of North Dakota, plus many others.

Continuous Alcohol Monitoring programs remain successful in both the large cities and small towns and most are supported through an offender pay model. Thru 2008 our model, in conjunction with the courts, has **saved the Judicial System approximately \$269 Million** in incarceration fees alone. With the offender pay model in mind, we must remain cognizant of those offenders that may not have the ability to afford the program. Our Programs include some type of indigent fund to help support those in need of maintaining a period of continuous sobriety. We work in each program to develop a system that works for both parties. For example, we can support an indigent fund through a percentage of daily fees collected, a sliding scale or a

model based on household income. Keep in mind the ultimate goal of continuous alcohol monitoring is to find a program suitable for all offenders.

SCRAM in Connecticut:

SCRAM is currently in use in Connecticut: it has been court ordered in Domestic Violence and Family Law Courts and used in family law cases. Most jurisdictions use SCRAM as just one component in a comprehensive toolbox used to manage, monitor and ultimately rehabilitate alcohol-addicted offenders. Washington State Institute for Public Policy created a report in October 2006 indicating there are key areas to reducing recidivism: Assessment, Treatment and Monitoring.

Continuous Alcohol Monitoring devices like SCRAM® (Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitor) aid judges, courts, corrections and many other agencies in the effort to reduce recidivism to make a difference, for their communities and for the individuals who need to maintain a period of continuous sobriety.

It is of utmost importance for the Members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary to support SB 660 for the following reasons:

1. Cost savings the State of Connecticut will realize
2. Ability of the courts to continuously monitor multiple alcohol offenders when the court orders no drinking
3. Enable offender reform for those battling alcohol addictions through a period of continuous sobriety

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimonial on this matter.

Michael Day



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES

MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

LYNDO THIPPETT
SECRETARY

February 21, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Susan Stewart, Manager
Driver License Medical Review Branch

FROM: William C. Gore, Jr., Commissioner

SUBJECT: CAM (Continuous Alcohol Monitoring)

Effective March 1, 2008, your section is authorized to impose Continuous Alcohol Monitoring as a requirement for continued legal operation of a motor vehicle pursuant to the policies upon which we have agreed. I appreciate the hard work of your section and the hearing officers to make this option available. I believe it will provide for increased safety for the motoring public by providing reasonable safeguards against drivers who would abuse the privilege.

WG/cs

cc: Wayne Hurder, Deputy Commissioner
Neil Dalton, Special Deputy Attorney General
Patrick Clancy, Hearing Officer Regional Supervisor
Jerry Mobley, Monitech, Inc. President
Bruce Roberts, Rehabilitation Support Services, LLC President
Rufus Edmiston, Attorney at Law

May 4, 2007

To the NC Senate Judiciary I Committee:

The North Carolina Association of Drug Court Professionals has reviewed Senate Bill 1290. It is in the interest of all the citizens of North Carolina to reduce the number of DWI offenders including the chronic offender. To meet that goal, the NCADCP strongly recommends Continuous Alcohol Monitoring (CAM) as an option for court officials.

We believe that Continuous Alcohol Monitoring (CAM) has shown that it is an accurate method for detecting alcohol consumption. It is vital for court officials, probation, and others to know who is and who is not complying with court orders for abstinence. We all know that traditional random testing has limitations. Because they are continuous, the CAM bracelets are dramatically more effective. There is no more guesswork.

CAM also provides the offender with additional motivation to stay sober. Many who have used CAM on their court ordered program make the claim that the CAM kept them honest. They knew they could not cheat and get away with it. This is a profound deterrent. It helps the client directly, but also indirectly toward a paradigm shift that understands cheating hurts oneself. Doing the right thing has long-term benefits.

Alcohol abuse is not a simple matter. Courts need good people and good tools. The NCADCP advocates for passage of Senate Bill 1290 because CAM's are a very good tool that court officials should be able to use when appropriate. We offer our robust support for Senate Bill 1290.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,



Donald G. Tourtellott
President

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