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Connecticut State Legislature  
General Assembly – Judiciary Committee

Dear Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Sandra Lax and I am a partner in the law firm of Lax and Truax in Fairfield, Connecticut. My practice is devoted exclusively to family law which I have practiced since 1988. I am a member of the American Academy of Matrimonial Attorneys since 1998 and have served as the Liason between the Academy and the American Bar Association Committee on Pro Bono Issues Regarding Children. I am an Adjunct Professor at Quinnipiac University School of Law, teaching Advanced Family Law and Custody. I have an AV rating from Martindale and Hubbell and serve as Custody Special Masters for the Regional Court. I also co-founded the Custody Special Masters Program for the Stamford Superior Court with Judge Tierney. **I am submitting this letter in support of SB 660 – An Act Requiring Drunken Drivers to Maintain a Period of Continuous Sobriety.**

Having spent my career practicing in the often contentious and emotional field of family law, I have seen all too often the ravaging effects the role of alcohol plays on the family structure. Practitioners like myself have been frustrated by the lack of reliable testing available to prove or defend an allegation of alcohol abuse by a parent or partner. Traditional methods of testing for alcohol are insufficient. Because alcohol is so quickly eliminated from the body, the success of these traditional methods is wholly dependent on catching the offender at just the right time. The results have been unreliable and inconclusive.

Continuous alcohol monitoring fills a much needed void in the area of alcohol testing. I began using a device known as the Scram bracelet which utilizes continuous alcohol monitoring for several of my family law cases. For the first time, there is certainty that the testing and results are reliable. The parties who have worn the ankle bracelet have easily adapted to it and found it simple to use. I receive reports promptly regarding compliance. The device gives a level of comfort that sobriety or alcohol consumption is being monitored and that there is objective proof of that.

I have found continuous alcohol monitoring to be a successful and necessary tool when dealing with alcohol issues in my practice. I feel it is an obvious fit in the area of drunken driving. The bill targets the most dangerous of DUI drivers – the repeat offenders with two or more

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convictions. Continuous alcohol monitoring will reliably indicate whether an order to remain sober is followed. And sobriety is what is necessary for effective rehabilitation. I urge the members of this committee to support SB 660 -An Act Requiring Drunken Drivers to Maintain a Period of Continuous Sobriety. Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimonial on this matter.

Very truly yours,

Sandra P. Lax