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Testimony of
State Representative Vincent J. Candelora
In Support of Senate Bill 343
An Act Concerning The Improvement of Pedestrian Safety At Crosswalks Designated by Traffic Authorities
Before the Transportation Committee

March 3, 2010

Good morning Chairmen DeFronzo and Guerrero, Ranking Members Boucher and Scribner, and Members of the Transportation Committee. I am here to testify on Raised Bill 343, An Act Concerning The Improvement of Pedestrian Safety At Crosswalks Designated by Traffic Authorities

This issue was brought to my attention by Georgia Spencer last summer. Her son, Jeffrey Spencer, was hit by a motor vehicle crossing Route 80 in East Haven after using a push to walk pedestrian traffic signal, which unknowing to any pedestrian, was not coordinated with the traffic signal and provided an insufficient amount of time for anyone to cross the street. Sadly he died from his injuries 4 days later. The bill before you today was submitted to make crosswalks visible to traffic and avoid tragic accidents that took the life of Jeffrey Spencer. This intersection suffered from no exclusive pedestrian walk phase and no painted crosswalk markings. The Department of Transportation has already begun work on the significant modifications and changes needed.

Specifically, the bill shall require any crosswalk deemed necessary by providing distinctive markings and signage and have any control signals deemed necessary by such authority to provide sufficient time for the safe crossing of pedestrians. The integration of advanced safety signals along with making the crosswalk more visible is a goal this committee should strive for. Passing this bill will go a long way to avoiding another needless death like Jeffrey's.

Once again, thank you for your time and consideration in regards to SB 343. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully Yours,

Vincent Candelora
State Representative