



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

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Testimony of Stephen N. Ment
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
March 18, 2011

House Bill 6589, An Act Increasing The Penalties For Drunken Driving
When A Child Is A Passenger Or When Serious Injury
Or Death Of A Child Results

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch in regards to *House Bill 6589, An Act Increasing the Penalties for Drunken Driving When a Child is a Passenger or When Serious Injury or Death of a Child Results*. Section 2 of the bill allows for particular penalties to be doubled, if a person under sixteen is a passenger in the motor vehicle when the offense occurred.

It is not clear how the provisions of section 2 will apply to the suspended sentence options for DUI sentencings. For example, in instances where the defendant could be imprisoned on a first offense for six months, 48 hours of which can't currently be suspended, would it now permit the court to imprison one for one year, of which 96 hours couldn't be suspended? If the sentence is suspended in its entirety, would one have to perform two hundred hours of community service?

As our concern runs throughout section 14-227a(g), it would be helpful if the proposed statute more explicitly stated the repercussions for one who drives under the influence with a child in the car.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.