



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

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RANKING MEMBER
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Testimony On

**H.B. 6148, An Act Requiring the Operator of a Vehicle Other
Than an Emergency Vehicle to Remain at Least Five
Hundred Feet Behind
an Ambulance That is Using Flashing Lights or a Siren**

Transportation Committee Public Hearing
March 7, 2011

Representative Guerrero, Senator Maynard, Senator Boucher, Representative Scribner and honorable members of the Transportation Committee:

I wish to testify **in support** of HB 6148, AN ACT REQUIRING THE OPERATOR OF A VEHICLE OTHER THAN AN EMERGENCY VEHICLE TO REMAIN AT LEAST FIVE HUNDRED FEET BEHIND AN AMBULANCE THAT IS USING FLASHING LIGHTS OR A SIREN.

Having been a provider of ambulance care, myself, I can testify to the fact that individuals following ambulances too closely can create dangerous situations for the ambulance crew, its patient, and other drivers. Very often, drivers are curious about where ambulances are going and whether or not a patient is being treated in the patient compartment. This can lead drivers to follow too close and "rubberneck."

The proposed bill will address that risk and I suggest two potential adjustments.

1. A distance of 500 feet could be viewed as excessive by many members of the legislature. Should that be the case, a distance of 200 feet would still provide an adequate buffer in most instances.
2. The bill as proposed appears to include no mechanism for law enforcement officers to issue infractions and impose penalties for following an ambulance too closely. I would suggest that language be changed to provide for such a penalty process.

PLEASE VISIT MY WEBSITE:
WWW.HOUSEGOP.CT.GOV

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this very worthwhile piece of legislation that will surely lead to enhanced safety during the course of ambulance operations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Perillo', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jason Perillo
State Representative