

Testimony of

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67 Cowles Street
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Transportation Committee
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In support of

S.B. No. 706 AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL INTERSECTION SAFETY SYSTEMS/S.B. No. 822 AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE USE OF PHOTOGRAPHIC TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT TECHNOLOGY/H.B. No. 6178 AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE USE OF TRAFFIC CAMERAS BY MUNICIPALITIES/H.B. No. 6179 AN ACT AUTHORIZING MUNICIPALITIES TO OPERATE INTERSECTION SAFETY CAMERA SYSTEMS.

Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrera and members of the Transportation Committee:

My name is Antonio "Tony" Magno and I am a resident here in Hartford, Connecticut. I am a community activist here in Hartford and I run a number of Italian cultural programs throughout the region.

I am here to testify in support of a number of bills that will allow a municipal option for the installation and operation of Intersection Safety Cameras. I am in support of each of the 4 proposed bills above. I want to go on the record as strongly supporting all of the proposed bills to allow for the use of automated Intersection Safety Cameras.

Here in this country we have given too many rights to drivers who break the law and run red lights causing accidents, injury and death.

In many other countries around the world the focus is on the laws of the road and the safety of the pedestrians and other drivers not on the privacy of drivers who break the law.

Most citizens here in Hartford and Connecticut are good citizens. They obey the law and don't speed through red lights. Just because a few people choose to NOT obey the law and run through red lights

We have major problems with lawlessness in our community. Lots of people

The Government passes laws that 90% of the citizens speed obey. In many of the cities of America there are many law-abiding citizens and their rights should be protected.

I know first-hand that this technology is not new or untested. It's been in use for many years throughout European countries. This is an accepted global technology.

We need laws that work. Red Light Traffic Light Cameras are tools that will keep people safe. Take a look at the facts:

The 2.2 million intersection crashes recorded in 2009 made up about 41 percent of all accidents. They resulted in 81,112 serious injuries and 7,358 deaths. Police established red-light running as the cause of 676 deaths and 113,000 injuries. The vast majority of the people who died - 64 percent - were not driving the vehicle that ran the light. They were passengers, other drivers, pedestrians and cyclists.

No matter where you live they do not have enough policemen to stop every violator. One way to ensure that citizens are safe and protected is to allow these safety cameras to be installed. For example, police will not often chase red light violators and traffic safety cameras have been in use for over 25 years. They work.

Every traffic intersection should have a safety camera. It's just smart common sense. It's very dangerous today to try and cross the street near an intersection. People do not obey and respect the law.

The people who get hit are the victims, not the violators.

Every accident costs more money than any of the tickets issued will. Think about the doctor bills, the insurance companies. They also indirectly create a significant cost burden for all citizens, in the form of high insurance, property recovery and medical costs. Although violations may seem trivial to those breaking the law, the consequences of red light violations are extremely serious. Crashes caused by red light running are far more likely to cause an injury than those caused by other types of violations.

In conclusion, I would like to again ask the Committee to support intersection traffic safety cameras. It's a win for pedestrians, it's a win for the communities who will begin to get their streets back and it's a win for the drivers who obey the laws.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today.