



MADD
Activism | Victim Services | Education™

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**Testimony of Johanna Krebs
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**Before the Transportation Committee
On Bill No. 6198
"An Act Prohibiting Open Containers of Alcohol Beverages in Motor Vehicles"
February 14, 2010**

Thank you Senator Maynard, Representative Guerra and members of the Transportation Committee for holding this important hearing and for the opportunity to submit testimony to you today in support of Bill 6198. I am Johanna Krebs, Court Monitoring Specialist for Mothers Against Drunk Driving in Connecticut.

The impact of drunk driving and underage drinking is felt throughout the state in the loss of innocent lives, the grief expressed by surviving family members and friends and the rise in high risk behaviors.

All too often the toll is listed as statistics. Every day in CT MADD victim advocates support surviving family members of someone killed in an alcohol-related crash through the criminal justice system.

When MADD was founded in 1984 in CT, drunk driving was considered socially acceptable behavior despite the fact that 252 people were killed in alcohol-related crashes that year. Alcohol-related traffic fatalities have declined by 40% - progress that has been achieved primarily through the enactment and enforcement of tough drunk driving laws. However, the war against drunk driving has stalled - in 2009, 99 people were killed in alcohol-related crashes in CT - to MADD, even one more death is unacceptable.

However, it is time to create an **Open Container Law**. Open Container laws have a significant deterrent effect against driving under the influence for both drinkers in general and for high risk drinkers. Open Container laws work to deter drunk driving from happening and thus reduce drunk driving death and injury on our roadways.

On behalf of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Connecticut, I respectfully request the Transportation Committee to support Bill No. 6198.

Thank you.