



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE TERRIE WOOD
ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-FIRST DISTRICT

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RANKING MEMBER
SELECT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Testimony

In Support of

**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
Monday, March 7, 2011

Dear Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, Senator Boucher,
Representative Scribner and Members of the Transportation Committee:

My name is Terrie Wood, the state representative for Darien and Norwalk, the 141st district. I would like to offer testimony in strong 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.

Almost 2 years ago, a constituent, Emily Close asked me if I would propose this legislation. Emily is an EMT with Post 53, Darien's first response Emergency Medical Service. She was quite frustrated and troubled at the number of times that she and her colleagues would be treating a patient in the ambulance racing to the hospital with lights and sirens and followed within 5 or 6 feet by a car taking advantage of a break in traffic. I was astounded when I heard this, but unfortunately not surprised.

I will keep this brief, Emily will speak to more specifics in her testimony. This legislation makes sense, as it requires a minimum distance for any vehicle following an ambulance, increasing the safety of the patient and crew and also protecting the privacy of the patient. There is no cost to this bill and benefits a large number of people in the state. A similar law requires vehicles to stay a minimum distance behind fire apparatus using lights and sirens. In speaking to a

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number of EMT's that I know, vehicles tailgating ambulances is a constant threat to the physical safety of the patients and EMT's.

The public safety benefits are worth this bill being passed into law. I hope you will vote favorably on this bill and keep in moving forward this session. Thank you for your time and I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terrie Wood". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Terrie Wood
State Representative
141st House District