



**Connecticut  
Children's**  
MEDICAL CENTER

**Testimony of Steven Rogers, MD, Emergency Physician, Injury Prevention Researcher, Injury Prevention Center at Connecticut Children's Medical Center to the Transportation Committee**

**Regarding SB 706 *An Act Concerning Municipal Intersection Safety Systems;***

**SB 822 *An Act Concerning The Use Of Photographic Traffic Enforcement Technology;***

**HB 6178 *An Act Authorizing The Use Of Traffic Cameras By Municipalities;***

**HB 6179 *An Act Authorizing Municipalities To Operate Intersection Safety Camera Systems;* and**

**HB 6122 *An Act Authorizing Newly-licensed Drivers to Carry Siblings As Passengers.***

**February 14, 2011**

Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, members of the Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts. My name is Steven Rogers, and I am an Emergency Physician and Injury Prevention Researcher of the Injury Prevention Center at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

I am testifying in support of the use of traffic cameras to better protect the children and families of Connecticut: Senate Bills 706 and 822, and House Bills 6178 and 6179.

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety studied the effects of red light camera enforcement on fatal crashes. Their study revealed that fatal crash rates at signalized intersections decreased by 14% for cities with camera programs, and actually increased slightly by 2% for cities without from 2004-2008. They concluded that if you wish to reduce fatal crashes at signalized intersections, you should consider red light camera enforcement.

We suggest that with this bill the committee include the requirement that intersections with red light camera enforcement feature prominent signage to alert motorists of the enforcement on approach to the intersection. The Connecticut Department of Transportation should be charged with maintaining accurate crash data on these intersections to allow for evaluation of this method of enforcement.

In 2009, intersection or intersection-related crashes resulted in 7,358 deaths nationwide. We support the use of traffic cameras because they have the potential to save lives in Connecticut by getting Connecticut motor vehicle operators to obey the law at intersections.

I am also testifying today in opposition to House Bill 6122 that would allow newly-licensed drivers to carry siblings. The law currently prohibits siblings from being passengers for the first six-months of licensure. This is in accordance with the recommendations of the Governor's Task Force on Teen Driving from 2008. We know that newly licensed drivers with siblings in the car are 1.5 times more likely to be involved in a crash. I urge you to oppose this change to Connecticut's graduated driver licensing system. The evidence is clear that rigorous graduated driver licensing systems have saved teen lives in every state that has adopted them.

Thank you for your consideration of these two important issues.

**Reference:**

**Hu W, McCartt AT, Teoh ER. "Effects of Red Light Camera Enforcement on Fatal Crashes in Large US Cities." Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. February 2011. [www.iihs.org](http://www.iihs.org)**