

March 12, 2012

Transportation Committee Public Hearing Testimony

Submitted by: Carrie Kramer, M.A., CRC, CBIS, Brain Injury Services
Director, Brain Injury Association of Connecticut

Good afternoon Chairs and Members of the Transportation Committee:

If possible, I would invite each and every one of you to listen in on one of the many heart-wrenching phone calls our Helpline staff fields each year by the loved ones of Connecticut residents who sustained significant and life-altering consequences due to preventable brain injuries. Each and every one of you before me today have an opportunity to decrease the number of these devastating events by enacting bill number 5458: An Act Concerning Municipal Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices At Certain Intersections.

My name is Carrie Kramer and I am the Director of Brain Injury Services at the Brain Injury Association of CT. The Brain Injury Association of CT is a state-wide, nonprofit organization that serves as Connecticut's partner in brain injury prevention and recovery. Each year we provide support for thousands of Connecticut citizens and their families who have been impacted

referred to as the 'silent epidemic'. What is not silent and what can be heard loud and clear are the rising costs that accumulate with every crash. Each year states are struggling to pass balanced budgets. Meanwhile TBI costs the nation more than 60 billion dollars a year. 80-90,000 Americans annually will be deemed disabled as a result of sustaining a TBI. In addition to the mental and emotional toll this takes on the community, there is a financial toll in lost productivity. Estimated lifetime costs in lost productivity for injuries incurred in one year is \$326 billion dollars.

Do what is right. Please support bill number 5458. Thank you.