

Monday, March 12, 2012

Transportation Committee Public Hearing: Bill No. 5458

Melinda Montovani, MSW, CBIS

Brain Injury Association of CT | 200 Day Hill Rd., Suite 250 | Windsor, CT | (860) 219-0291 x305

Good afternoon Chairpersons and members of the Transportation Committee,

My name is Melinda Montovani and I am a Social Worker who has the privilege of working at the Brain Injury Association of CT. I am speaking today in support of Bill No. 5458, An Act Concerning Municipal Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices at Certain Intersections.

Working at the Brain Injury Association of CT I hear numerous stories about tragic accidents that could have been prevented. All of the stories end with if only I had.....maybe my life would be different. One recurring theme is the story of running the red light.

It is 2am and the teen driver desperately wants to be home and in his bed.

His thoughts urge him forward,

"I really need to get home.

I have to be up early.

I'm already late, I'll be in trouble.

I can make the red light...

There's no one around,

It's the middle of the night...

Who's going to know?

No one will get hurt...."

Another teen is past curfew and she is racing towards the same intersection trying to get home.

In her mind she worries,

"I have to make that light or I'll hit all red after it

It's really late,

I'm the only one on the road,

Who will know if I run the light?

No one's around,

No one will get hurt..."

The stories merge in a fiery crash, people hurt, lives lost, families ruined, futures destroyed.

A nagging question lingers, "What if even one of them had stopped for the light? What if they knew they were not alone, they knew someone was watching, they knew they would not 'get away with it'? Wouldn't that knowledge have stopped at least one of the drivers in their tracks?" One person, one changed behavior, lives saved.

The Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Device can be the reminder that you are not alone. It can be what helps you to pause and think knowing there are certain consequences for our actions. If we were going to change our behavior because it was the right and safe thing to do, then we would have already done that. Red Light Camera's can be the extra incentive to change our behavior.

And maybe I'll hear one less tragic story at the Brain Injury Association of CT, because someone stopped for a red light and the story ended right there.

Please support Bill No. 5458 An Act Concerning Municipal Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices at Certain Intersections.

Thank you.