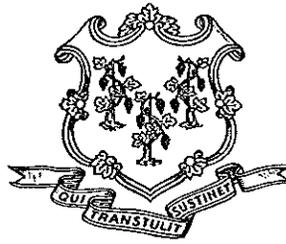


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State of Connecticut

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Higher Education & Employment  
Advancement Committee

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Appropriations Committee  
Education Committee  
Internship Committee  
Judiciary Committee

February 22, 2012

**Testimony to the Transportation Committee  
Senate Bill 111: An Act Concerning The Penalty For  
Causing Harm To A Vulnerable User Of A Public Way**

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

My name is Beth Bye, State Senator for the 5<sup>th</sup> district, representing West Hartford, Farmington, Burlington and Bloomfield.

I am here today to testify in support of Senate Bill 111, and thank you for what has become your annual support for this important concept. In 2010 and 2011, this bill overwhelmingly passed this committee, other committees, and even the House of Representatives, only to become a victim of the legislative calendar. I am hopeful that this year will be the year that we finally provide pedestrians, cyclists, and especially individuals with disabilities, with these small protections.

While the most modern roads in the US and abroad are built with multi-modal traffic in mind, most roads in Connecticut are not well equipped to handle pedestrian and other types of traffic. Yet, all individuals have and deserve the right to use our roads safely, regardless of the mode of transportation they utilize. This bill recognizes that each user of a road is deserving of protection from aggressive, dangerous, or negligent driving. The penalties proposed in this bill are not severe. But, they are enough they will serve to educate drivers who are not cautious in constantly surveying their surroundings.

Whether they're in wheelchairs, walking, cycling, skating, or working, non-vehicle users of our roads are increasing. I believe that we need a law which accounts for this increase and requires driver education training to occur sooner than after two or three moving violations as specified by law.

I am also happy to support this bill on behalf of advocates, particularly for the disabled, who believe that this bill will raise awareness to the fact that being a pedestrian on the side of a roadway, especially on these narrow, snow-blocked roads, is oftentimes discomfoting, and sometimes dangerous. I believe this bill raises awareness to the fact that public roads are not just for cars anymore, and I appreciate the committee's support.

Thank You