



## State of Connecticut

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**THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2012**

#### **SELECT COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

#### **PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF**

#### **HOUSE BILL 5373,**

#### **"AN ACT WAIVING THE COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS TEST FOR VETERANS WITH EQUIVALENT MILITARY LICENSES."**

Good Afternoon Chairman Leone, Chairman Hennessy, Ranking Member Welch, Ranking Member Adinolfi, and Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs members. I am truly appreciative of your action to raise this concept for public hearing and welcome the opportunity to express my support for this effort.

Veterans have served our country, enduring sacrifice and tribulations that the average person can hardly imagine. I feel it is our duty as citizens, and lawmakers, to foster a socio-political environment of support for our veterans, and to make their transition from military to civilian life as smooth as possible. Through H.B. 5373, we can accomplish both of these duties.

In the past, the military has used recruiting strategies that touted the interchangeable nature of jobs in the military with jobs in the civilian realm. Remaining consistent with this line of thought, the commercial driver licensing processes that are currently used by the Department of Motor Vehicles should be amended to allow those veterans who have the equivalent military license to use that certification when applying for jobs in Connecticut. The system, as it currently stands, ignores the experience that many military truck drivers may have gained during their time in the military, forcing them to become re-licensed in a redundant process. In this way, veterans who may already have the experience of a seasoned civilian commercial driver are unable to apply that military experience and training to their future civilian career.

It is true that military training and experience leads to maturity, leadership and a seriousness of purpose that make veterans attractive and valuable candidates for civilian jobs. H.B. 5373 would allow their training and experience to count in the civilian sector. This effort would greatly increase the ease through which veterans can find gainful employment after discharge from the military, and most importantly, would remove at least one hurdle from the job application process for applicable veterans. Thank you again for moving this concept to public hearing and I urge the Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs to favorably move this legislation forward.