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Memorandum

RE: Senate Bill 421
Hearing: 3/19/2012

As the attorney for the Estate of Tina Marie DeGrandi, I witnessed a significant problem with the investigation conducted by the State Police after Tina was tragically killed in a horrific accident on Route 9 in Cromwell near the Berlin border. As she drove in the passing lane heading north at 12:30 pm on September 26, 2007, the operator of a pick-up truck driving southbound lost control of his vehicle, crossed the grass median, became airborne, and struck the metal fence in the median which caused the pick-up truck to turn over and catapult onto Tina's car, crushing the driver's side of her vehicle. Tina never gained consciousness and died a short time later.

The facts in this matter are egregious. A southbound vehicle becomes airborne then smashes onto the median metal barrier, turns over in the air and crushes a vehicle killing a driver in the north bound lane.

The state police investigation included an accident reconstruction analysis and several statements from witnesses. The statements of the witnesses conflicted. The state accident reconstruction analysis failed to reach a conclusion as to speed despite the physical evidence and the traumatic nature of the accident.

Confronted with conflicting testimony and the failure of the state police accident reconstruction report to reach a conclusion, the state prosecutors explained to the DeGrandi family that they could not charge the driver of the other vehicle with even an infraction, let alone negligent homicide.

Thus, the DeGrandi family is forced to accept not only the loss of their beloved daughter but, also, the failure of the criminal justice system in Connecticut to give them a sense of closure.

The DeGrandi Family, Tina's parents Joseph and Sandy, her sister and her husband Susan and Mario Addona, and Tina's many uncles, aunts and cousins, all request that in the face of a fatal accident, the State Police be required to perform or obtain an accident reconstruction report which reaches a conclusion as to the cause of the fatal accident.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis L. Kern

