

Testimony of Daniel Toner

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Good day Senators, Representatives, Members of the Judiciary Committee, this Audience and perhaps most importantly Residents of this Great State.

I am here to express strong **opposition to SB446**

Although I am extremely proud to have been a Bail Agent for almost 17 years beginning as an entry level agent, to building one of Connecticut's largest retail bail operations with offices in Hartford, New London and New Britain, We employ over 23 people most of which are the chief bread winners in there respective families.

I am before you today however as a citizen of this great state, who happens to have extensive knowledge of the bail bond process.

It is ludicrous for us to sit in our beautiful air conditioned offices in our fancy suits and dresses and think that we can responsibly set reasonable maximum bond amount for EVERY person arrested for EVERY misdemeanor in EVERY City in EVERY Town, In EVERY situation, In Every Condition in Every Circumstance in Connecticut.

IT JUST DOESN'T MAKE SENSE TO TAKE DISCRETION AWAY FROM THE ARRESTING AGENCY; the men and women, who have searched for, located, met and ultimately arrested this person. It is difficult for me to consider the risk to our citizens if this bill passes.

There are 3 factors that **MUST** be considered when setting bond for an arrested person, they are:

- **Risk of Flight – what is the likelihood of the arrested person fleeing the jurisdiction?**
- **Risk to Society – what is likelihood of the arrested person hurting others?**
- **Risk to Self – what is the likelihood of the arrested person hurting them self?**

None of which can be answered without being there. Sometimes a \$5,000 bond is way too high but there are other times that \$5,000 is way too little to assure Connecticut's citizens that they are safe and that the judicial process has been properly served.

Please leave the discretion where it belongs – with the many extremely well trained and qualified law enforcement professionals who have the sometimes unfortunate and complicated occasion to meet the very people we are speaking of today.

We must also consider that commercial bail is THE ONLY pre-trial release program that monitors the non compliant (the people who fail to appear for their court dates).

Thank you for your time and attention, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.