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Distinguished Senators and Representatives and members of the Judicial committee,

My name is Andrew Bloom and I have been a bondsman and bail enforcement agent for 16 years.

**I am here to testify against Raised SB446.**

RSB446 limits the amount of bail placed on a surety bail bond by the police departments to not exceed \$5,000. This may sound like a way to cut down on prison population, but in the interest of public safety being served, this makes a mockery of a proven system centuries old. The thought that a uniform amount should be set by Legislators is simply not well thought out. Every arrest is different. The circumstances can vary greatly. Only the arresting agency knows what they found and heard when they arrived on scene. To set a maximum amount of \$5,000 allows offenders with the following charges to bail out with as little as \$175 or less.

*Sec. 53a-61a. Assault of an elderly, blind, disabled, pregnant or mentally retarded person in the third degree: Class A misdemeanor*

*Sec. 53a-62. Threatening in the second degree: Class A misdemeanor*

*Sec. 53a-63. Reckless endangerment in the first degree: Class A misdemeanor*

*Sec. 53a-64cc. Strangulation in the third degree: Class A misdemeanor*

*Sec. 53a-73a. Sexual assault in the fourth degree: Class A misdemeanor*

*Sec. 53a-96. Unlawful restraint in the second degree: Class A misdemeanor*

*Sec. 53a-107. Criminal trespass in the first degree: Class A misdemeanor*

*Sec. 53a-181d. Stalking in the second degree: Class A misdemeanor*

*Sec. 53a-58. Criminally negligent homicide: Class A misdemeanor*

**And that is just a few of the many offenders this bill would allow out for peanuts.**

The state has time and time again proven that it has no vested interest in finding defendants who skip their court dates. **Surety and Professional Bail Bonds are the only form of pretrial release programs that monitor the non-compliant.** All others rely on the resources of Public Safety Departments to reel in those who get kicked out of their programs and miss court.

**Raised SB446** could lead to removing the commercial Bail Industry all together.

This is the second bill proposed this year that takes pot shots at an industry we all worked together for many years to reform. The laws passed last year are going a long way. Since the law passed last year the Department of Insurance has revoked, suspended or levied fines on 16 licensees. Many who did not want to follow the new laws have turned in their licenses.

Our Bail Industry is working. Please don't work to topple our apple cart.

Andrew J. Bloom