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Testimony by Janice Heggie Margolis
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S.B. No. 1166

"An Act Concerning Installation, Use and Enforcement Regarding Ignition Interlock Devices"

Members of the Judicial Committee
April 15, 2013

Good Afternoon. My name is Janice Heggie Margolis and I am the Executive Director of Mothers Against Drunk Driving in Connecticut. I wish to thank you for holding this Judiciary Public Hearing. I appreciate the opportunity to testify before you and I hope together we can pass sound legislation that will preclude injuries and deaths and preserve Connecticut lives.

I have come before this committee today to endorse interlock **Senate Bill 1166**, An Act Concerning Installation, Use and Enforcement Regarding Ignition Interlock Devices.

When passed, this bill will:

- prohibit persons arrested for the crime of DUI from operating a vehicle unless equipped with an IID;
- establish a specific identifiable operator's license or special operators for persons subject to an IID restriction on his or her driver's license;
- permit the forfeiture of a motor vehicle used by a person required to install an IID who fails to do so;
- require daily electronic monitoring for persons who claim to have no motor vehicle and therefore don not install an approved IID in a motor vehicle.

MADD is extremely concerned about the number of offenders who simply drive while suspended if interlocks are not required immediately (because they quickly discover how easy it is to drive unlicensed and undetected). A long delay between a licensing action and ignition interlock installation teaches offenders that they do not need a license to drive and decreases their incentive to ever re-enter the licensing control system.

Studies by federal agencies and independent think tanks highlight the high rate of recidivism associated with drunk driving. The typical person convicted of his or her first DUI offense has driven drunk as **80** times before being caught. We know that one third of persons convicted of DUI will be convicted of DUI yet again. Interlocks have been shown to deter drinking and driving in both a specific and general sense. DUI offenders using interlocks have acknowledged the device's change in their behaviors.

MADD respectfully requests strengthening the current CT IID law. Thank you.