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TESTIMONY - TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
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Good afternoon Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, Senator Stillman, Representative Mikutel, ranking members and distinguished members of the Transportation committee.

My name is Glenn Terlecki and I am the President of the Connecticut Police and Fire Union. Our Union represents approximately 900 State employees who serve this State in firefighting and law enforcement professions. I am here today to speak in favor of:

Proposed Bill No. 5187

"AN ACT REQUIRING ANNUAL SAFETY INSPECTIONS OF ALL MOTOR VEHICLES."

This proposed bill will improve road safety by requiring all vehicles to undergo annual safety inspections.

There was a time not too long ago that this State required all vehicles 10 years and older to subject to and successfully pass a safety inspection prior to obtaining new registrations. This former safety inspection program also required all out-of-state vehicles to successfully pass a vehicle inspection prior to allowing registration in Connecticut.

At some point in the early 2000's a decision was made to end bulk of the inspection program. However, the associated fees collected by DMV for these inspections did not end. A portion of the original inspection fee was rolled over and still is collected as the cost associated with registering a car.

Although the majority of the inspection program had ended, vehicle safety was still a concern. The thought behind still collecting the fee was to fund and increase the presence of the Department of Motor Vehicles Enforcement Spot Check Team. This was a squad of Motor Vehicles Inspectors that were once assigned to enforce equipment violations under CGS Title 14 by performing "spot check points" orchestrated with local municipal police departments and by roaming patrols.

Subsequently, the spot check team was never funded or increased in size and ultimately the team was disbanded within a few years and its members assigned other related duties. I was a member of this spot check team. As I approach my 15th year of State service, I am still concerned about the safety and condition of vehicles on Connecticut roads today.

There are 18 states in this country that currently have an annual inspection program along with the State of Maryland that requires inspections prior to registration or transfer of ownership. If Connecticut



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were to again implement vehicle safety inspections, I am certain that there will be a vast increase in compliance with equipment related violations.

There is obviously a lot that needs to be thought out for this proposed bill to succeed. Some of the big questions are; would the inspections be performed at existing DMV inspection lanes or regulated repair facilities, what are the parameters that would require an inspection (all vehicles, certain mileage vehicles etc), what fees would be charged and would there be a hardship program setting a cap on money spent to make necessary repairs? Whatever decisions are ultimately made, the benefits of having an annual inspection program far outweigh any associated costs. It is also possible that along with helping to increase the safety of vehicles on our roads, the State could generate revenue from the implementation of such program.

I ask for your support in passing this bill and doing your part to keep Connecticut's road safe. Thank you.

Connecticut Police and Fire Union

Glenn Terlecki, President