



## State of Connecticut

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February 4, 2013

### Testimony of Representative Minnie Gonzalez Transportation Committee

#### House Bill #6030, An Act Establishing "Red Zones" On Connecticut's Highways

Good morning (afternoon) Chairman Maynard, Chairman Guerrero and members of the Transportation Committee. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to address the committee this afternoon (morning). I am Representative Minnie Gonzalez and I represent the 3<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District in Hartford. I am here to testify in favor of House Bill 6030, An Act Establishing "Red Zones" On Connecticut's Highways and how such a law may serve to ease congestion and increase safety on our state's highways.

On sections of highway where lanes merge from two to one, it is the habit of many drivers to merge at the last minute, causing traffic congestion and contributing to accidents at merge points. This law would ease that congestion by compelling drivers to merge before the merge point so that traffic continues to move.

In a red zone area, traffic lines will be painted red for a distance before a forced merge to be determined by the State Department of Transportation to give drivers enough opportunity to merge. Accidents at merge points caused by drivers that fail to merge may be taken into consideration by police when filing reports and determining fault.

If, in the judgment of state police, a driver remains in a red zone for longer than reasonably necessary in the opinion of the officer to merge, the driver may be fined for an amount not to exceed \$100 dollars.

I believe this traffic law will help to ease congestion on our state's highways by helping to address the stop-and-go traffic that is created by aggressive drivers that speed up to get ahead of other drivers at merge zones. I believe the Department of Transportation may be able to implement this law on a limited basis to study the effects on traffic congestion before expanding if successful.

I thank you once again and urge the committees support.