

## TESTIMONY ARMANDO MORALES

Good Evening, Senators & Representatives. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Armando Morales, and this is my wife, Jeimy Zepeda. We are small business owners. We are parents of three wonderful daughters. We are residents of East Haven. We are parishioners of St. Rose of Lima Church and leaders in CONECT.

As small business owners, we are dedicated to providing the best service to our customers. We work hard everyday to make our business grow and to provide our family. Our customers are from various parts of the state, we need to drive in order to serve them.

A few months ago, we had a car accident -- five minutes away from our house, we were suddenly slammed into by a car that made a last minute turn. Our van was heavily damaged. It was scary and shocking -- the air bags deployed and our kids were screaming and crying. We had to get medical attention, but thankfully we are all okay. At the time, of course, we didn't think about the insurance of the person who hit us -- all we could think of was that hopefully nobody had suffer major injuries.

Our surprise was when we received the police report and found out that the other driver fled the scene and that car had no registration or insurance. Now we were not only stuck with medical bills, but a totaled car too

This set us back in our business too -- we were unable to serve our customers for several days. We have established a daily schedule for our customers and without our van we could not reach them.

Losing our van made us lose money and time but also hurt our small business.

Growing a small business sometimes is hard, and we want to prevent other small business owners from suffering the consequences of getting hit by an untrained, uninsured, and unlicensed drivers.

We urge you to help small businesses in Connecticut by making our roads safer -- please pass House bill 6037 and Senate bill 68.

Thank you