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Date: February 18 2013

To: State of Connecticut Veterans' Affairs Committee Attn:  
Senator Carlo Leone  
Representative John Hennessy  
Senator Jason Welch  
Representative Dave Yaccarino

Dear Ranking Members,

I am writing this letter to voice my support for Senate Bill 303 that would afford Connecticut residents currently serving on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States an easier path to obtaining a motorcycle operator endorsement on their Connecticut driver's license.

Currently, for a service member that is stationed outside the State of Connecticut that desires a motorcycle operator endorsement on their driver's license, they must return to Connecticut to pay for a course that is given by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation, even though the same course is given by the same organization on most military installations as well as in the state that service member is stationed in. In most cases, returning to Connecticut is not feasible and as a result, the service member must first pay to obtain an out of state driver's license and then pay an additional fee to get the motorcycle endorsement. Then, at a future date, turn the out of state license in to the State of Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles which will then grant the service member a motorcycle endorsement on their Connecticut driver's license at no cost. A better way would be to allow a service member to meet all the requirements of a motor cycle license in the state where that service member is stationed and provide that documentation to the State Connecticut in order to get a motorcycle endorsement. This course of action does not result in any reduction of standards, but only saves the service member time and money.

As an active duty United States Marine that still calls Connecticut home, I want to thank you for taking the time to discuss this issue. This bill, not only makes sense, but also demonstrates the unwavering support that Connecticut has always provided to those of us in uniform.

Semper Fidelis,

Christopher J. Curtin