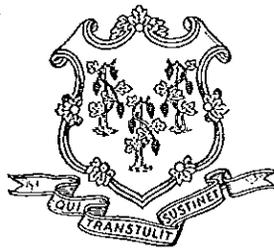


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State of Connecticut

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Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee
Transportation Committee

Testimony of State Senator Carlo Leone on S.B. No. 464 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF HAIR FOLLICLE DRUG TESTING BY CLINICAL LABORATORIES

Good morning Chairmen Coleman and Fox, Ranking Members Kissel and Rebimbas, I am writing today in support of S.B. No. 464 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF HAIR FOLLICLE DRUG TESTING BY CLINICAL LABORATORIES. The legislation would a hair follicle drug test when such a test has ordered by a licensed physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse.

Recently, a constituent of mine wanted his son to get a hair follicle drug test. The son consented because he was under 18 years of age. However, when the father and son went together to the drug testing facility, they were notified that only an employer or a court order can order a drug test, or also notification from a doctor. Their doctor issued the notification, but because it was an improper form they were turned away a second time. They were also informed the only way the doctor could prescribe or access the correct form was if, once again, it was a court order or from an employer.

Unfortunately, a few days after the gentleman tried to get his son tested, his son committed suicide. Maybe if the drug test was allowed to be performed, treatment, therapy or an intervention could have happened to help the teenager turn his life around. Unfortunately, we will never know, but this is an opportunity for us and our great state help to prevent further tragedies.

From this tragedy, we must act so this scenario does not play out again. Thank you for allowing me to speak in support of this legislation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call.