

Testimony of Daniel Toner

President: 3-D Bail Bonds, Inc

President: DAD's Bail Bonds, LLC

Vice President: Fugitive Recovery Agency, Inc.

Member: Bail Association of Connecticut

Member: Professional Bail Agents of the United States

Good day Senators, Representatives, Members of the Judiciary Committee, this Audience and perhaps most importantly, the people we are all here working for, the Residents of this Great State.

I am here in favor of Raised Bill 5588 – AN ACT CONCERNING BAIL BONDS

As I have mentioned in recent testimony, I am extremely proud to have been a Bail Agent for almost 19 years beginning as an entry level Bail Agent, to building one of Connecticut's largest retail bail operations with offices in Hartford, New London and New Britain. We employ nearly 20 people most of whom are the chief bread winners in their respective families. I have been a strong advocate for bail reform for my entire career.

I am before you again as a citizen of this great state who has extensive knowledge of bail bonds.

Commercial Bail is the ONLY form of pretrial release that monitors a defendant's criminal case while ensuring compliance and guaranteeing the defendant's appearance in court; at NO COST, and NO RISK to the taxpayer. All other forms of pretrial release leave the expense and burden of monitoring the compliant defendant and locating and apprehending absconding fugitives to the taxpayer. Without Commercial Bail; we are simply left with hoping the Police are lucky enough to stop an absconding fugitive on a good day. The Officer will then be forced to bring the Absconder in to custody at the risk and expense of their already overburdened Departments and Taxpayers. We must concur, Bail Agents and Bail Enforcement Agents work in very ugly circumstances at horrible hours in the worst parts of town. We bring defendants back to court so their criminal case can be adjudicated.

Raised Bill 588 primarily cleans up the language and ambiguities of last year's Bill which unanimously passed both the House and Senate.

As I testified on March 10th, the bail contract is written and executed under the **presumption of innocence**. The risk to the indemnitors of the bail contract is drastically and completely changed when a Principal is no longer a Defendant. They are now a convict and are no longer presumed innocent – they've been found guilty.

It was formerly the Bail Agencies responsibility to ensure a Defendant's appearance until their case was adjudicated. - as soon as guilt or innocence was established - the Agent and Indemnitor fulfilled their obligation. It changed several years ago to until the defendant was sentenced. It CAN NOT now be changed to "FOR SUCH SENTENCE TO COMMENCE" Line 198 has those 4 words that must be eliminated. Other than those words – I am absolutely in favor and whole heartedly recommend you pass this bill again.

I understand there are legitimate reasons for the Court to delay sentencing; however it should be at the Courts discretion - not at the expense of Bail Indemnitors and Bail Agencies.

Thank you for your time and attention, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.