

**Testimony in Support of: SB-336 An Act Concerning The Penalty For Causing  
Harm To A Vulnerable User Of A Public Way.**

Testimony presented by Frederick J. Mastele, President of the Connecticut Horse Council.

Dear Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrera and members of the Transportation Committee;

This testimony is presented on behalf of the CHC.

Every year hundreds of "vulnerable users" are killed and injured on our state roads. The Connecticut Horse Council supports SB-336 for several reasons. First and foremost, SB-336 will establish a class of, and define "vulnerable user". In addition, it also establishes a fine of not more than \$1,000 for inflicting serious injury or death to a "vulnerable user" when a person fails to use due care when operating a motor vehicle.

If you have been a member of the Transportation Committee for the past few years you know that during that time some form of the bill has come before you, and each year the CHC has been one of its supporters. In the beginning the CHC's primary reason for support of the bill was for protection of horseback riders that often use our state roads. The CHC became involved with this type of legislation when one of our members and her horse were injured when they were struck by someone operating a motor vehicle while riding on a roadway in Clinton. The rider and horse were both seriously injured and as a result the horse had to be euthanized. Although equestrians continue to be our main focus, we have since come to realize there are other users of our state roads just as vulnerable. Passage of this bill would not absolve "vulnerable users" from unsafe usage of state roadways, but would increase fines and penalties for careless operation of motor vehicles.

For the reasons stated above and other testimony that will be heard today, the CHC would ask that you please consider passage of SB-336.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Frederick J. Mastele