

Officer Gil Maffeo #43

Patrolman, Waterford Police Department

Bill No. 7025

I am writing in regards to Bill No. 7025 “ an act concerning the operation of a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug, and while a child is in the motor vehicle.” I have been a patrolman with the Waterford Police Department since May 2000. Since then I have become a Drug Recognition Expert/Instructor and have received numerous awards from MADD. I have made several arrests over my career involving juveniles in motor vehicles when the operator was impaired by alcohol and or drugs. As directed by my superiors, as wells as the courts, I charged the driver with Risk of Injury to a Minor. I do feel that this charge is appropriate, the individual should be charged with a felony, but the courts don't seem to follow through with prosecuting with this charge due to the fact it is not motor vehicle related. In addition this charge is used for people who have victimized a child or exposed them to inappropriate behavior.

The State of Connecticut needs a specific charge when it comes to having a minor in a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. I want the language in the law specific so that there is no circumnavigating it in the courts and as well as Per Se. The punishment for this offense should severe enough to deter future violators and hold these individuals responsible for their actions. Unfortunately children don't have a choice when it comes to being put in this position. That is why it is our obligation to protect them from individuals that make the bad decision to drive under the influence of alcohol and drugs. What MADD has proposed has my support as a police officer, parent, and tax payer.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Patrolman Gil Maffeo