

Memo

To: Members of the Transportation Committee

From: Sister Mary Jude Lazarus
Director Office for Hispanic Ministry
Catholic Diocese of Norwich, CT

Re: Testimony – Drive Only License

Date: February 9, 2015

Good Morning. As I am unable to attend this hearing because of the weather, I am submitting my testimony in writing.

My name is Sister Mary Jude Lazarus. I live in Willimantic, Ct. and it has been my privilege to work with the Catholic Church for 30 years in ministry to the Latino Population in the towns of Willimantic, Norwich, New London, Middletown, Clinton and their surroundings. The purpose of this testimony is to raise my voice in favor Public Act #1389, and to speak in strong opposition to Bill #5227 whose purpose is to repeal the statue which allows Drive-Only Licenses.

I have been working closely with the Department of Motor Vehicle to prepare my people to learn the rules of the road and pass the test in order to make them safe drivers on the road. This is a protection not only for them, but for all other citizens of Connecticut as well. That has always been our concern – that everyone driving on the road be protected by the law. Public Act #1389 protects all residents of Connecticut and keeps them safe.

The Latino population has been diligent in learning the rules of the road, proof of which 75% of those who have taken the test so far have been successful.

This Public Act is a hefty source of income for Connecticut as well. DMV has said that 34,000 applications have been made so far. Multiply that by the \$59 that each has to pay and you get a hefty profit for the state.

When the folks go for the license, that's another \$72. Another bundle for the state.

Public Act #1389 is a win-win situation - for those who apply for the license, for the other citizens of Connecticut, and for the state itself. Those who apply for this license have been living in the state for years – many of them 20+ years. They

support the state, they pay their taxes, they support their civic and church communities. These are people who help to build up the state. I urge you to act in the best interest of Connecticut and not repeal this Public Act.

Thank you.