



State of Connecticut
SENATE

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March 2, 2015

Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, and Distinguished Members of the Transportation Committee,

I am State Senator Michael McLachlan, and I am testifying today in support of House Bill 6349, *An Act Concerning Ride-Sharing Companies And Drivers*. This bill would require the Department of Transportation to regulate all for-hire transportation services in the state.

As you are aware, taxi cab and limousine services are heavily regulated in our state. For-hire services should be regulated in the same manner to ensure driver and passenger safety.

For-hire transportation services, such as Uber and Lyft, came to my attention last spring when Uber arrived in Fairfield County. I was left with several questions and concerns about this type of service coming to the state, and I wrote to Commissioner Redeker about them.

My main concern that I addressed in spring of last year remains to be a top of concern that I have yet to receive a true answer from the Department of Transportation or the for-hire services. This is the issue of liability.

For instance, the drivers are not employees of Uber, so it is unclear who is responsible if an accident occurs.

In April of last year, a 15-passenger van crashed on I-84 in Vernon, and was found to be operating illegally as a for-hire vehicle. The van was not registered with the company that the passengers hired to transport them.

The question remains, who is liable for this accident, the driver of the van, or the company?

Passenger safety is also a concern with the for-hire transportation services. Anyone who has their own car, has proper insurance, has a valid driver license, and passes a background check can become an Uber driver.

These background checks, however, do not include fingerprinting. A sure way to guarantee that the driver is who they say would be to require this. Without this requirement, there is no guarantee.

It is for the above reasons that that for-hire transportation services need to be regulated in the state.

It is our job as legislators to help ensure that riders of the for-hire transportation services are protected, as well as the drivers.

Thank you.

Michael A. McLachlan
State Senator – 24th District