

Chairman Guerrero, Chairman Maynard and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee, my name is Scott Slifka, I am the Mayor of West Hartford, and I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 6349 - An Act Concerning Ride-Sharing Companies and Drivers.

My primary reason for supporting this bill is that I believe companies like Uber are helping to connect riders to safer rides, helping Connecticut in the fight against drunk driving.

Combating drunk driving is a fight we have been out in front of for nearly two decades, and this type of innovation puts Connecticut in a position to make the heart break of losing a loved one to a senseless act less rare.

Uber – when properly regulated - gives people a safe, easy and reliable alternative to driving while intoxicated. Data suggests that when Uber enters a market, DUIs decrease.

Using Uber on a more wide scale basis across the state will help us keep reducing the number of DUIs we see and ensure that Connecticut roads stay safe at any hour.

In addition, with the introduction of Uber into our state's economy, it holds the potential to help to stimulate job development throughout our state and give people a chance to climb up the economic ladder.

We must give the entrepreneurs and small business owners struggling to make it in today's economy the chance to earn extra money while they pursue their dreams, while properly balancing this against our responsibility to ensure that the operators and their vehicles act in a manner that only enhances public safety.

We should seek to create an environment that allows such companies to prosper, while continuing to seek ways to improve access to safe transportation.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of this important issue.