



State of Connecticut  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE MICHELLE L. COOK  
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HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

February 9, 2015

Chairman Maynard, Chairman Guererra, and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee,

Thank you for bringing this bill to the public hearing today. I am Deputy Majority Leader Michelle Cook and I am here to testify in favor of **SB 488**. This legislation would allow drivers education students to fulfill requirements to obtain their driver's license with ease.

Currently, residents wishing to obtain a Connecticut driver's license must take a statutorily required eight hour course on drugs and alcohol. If the resident is a minor, there is a portion of the course that their parents must participate in as well. This course is presently only offered in an in-person format for a fee of \$150.00. There are no assessments performed by any of the class participants- participants must simply state their course attendance upon applying for a driver's license.

My office has received multiple complaints about the arrangement of this program. If the course was offered in two formats- both in person and online, while also at a discounted rate for those taking the online format, I firmly believe this would resolve issues. Additionally, an online format allows residents to complete the course at a pace reasonable for them and guardians if necessary. Many of our state's young residents not only have academic obligations to fulfill, but also extracurricular activities and jobs as well. Obtaining a driver's license adds to their responsibilities and can create stress on their already regimented schedules.

An online format also allows for clarity in participation. An online system would allow for attendance to be tracked, assessments to be administered, and most importantly proof that this requirement has been fulfilled. The current system lacks serious accountability.

We offer so many other state services and programs through online servers. Adopting an online version of this course is an obvious step in perfecting the system for obtaining a driver's license.



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I thank you for your consideration of SB 488. Please feel free to contact my office should you have any further questions.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle L. Cook".

Representative Michelle L. Cook