



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

**REPRESENTATIVE BRIAN BECKER**  
19TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ROOM 4009  
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL: 860-240-8585  
FAX: 860-240-0206  
E-MAIL: [Brian.Becker@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Brian.Becker@cga.ct.gov)

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LEGISLATIVE REGULATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

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**Statement of Brian S. Becker**  
**State Representative for the 19<sup>th</sup> Assembly District**  
**before the**  
**Transportation Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly**  
**February 9, 2015**  
**in support of HB 6500**  
**An Act Concerning a Two-Part Motor Vehicle Registration System**

First, I would like to thank the Committee for taking the time to hear testimony on HB 6500, An Act Concerning a Two-Part Motor Vehicle Registration System.

Once upon a time and not too long ago, Connecticut had a two-part registration system. The Department of Motor Vehicles ("DMV") would mail a bill to each vehicle owner. Only after the vehicle owner paid the bill and satisfied all other conditions for registration of a vehicle, would DMV mail the vehicle's registration to the owner.

Under our current system, DMV sends the bill and the vehicle registration in the same envelope. While the bill has a notice that states the vehicle registration will be valid only after all conditions for registration of a vehicle have been satisfied (e.g., payment of the registration fee, payment of the car tax, proof of insurance and completion of the vehicle emissions test), many people miss the notice. Those people just assume that once they pay the registration fee, the registration is valid. They put the registration in the car's glove compartment and go on their way – until they are pulled over by a police officer.

Policemen in my district brought this issue to my attention. They say it is "penny-wise and pound foolish" to have this one-step system. It is time-consuming for the police officers to stop people and write them tickets. More importantly, it can be confusing and costly for our citizens who, in good faith, believe they are in compliance with the law and wind up having to pay a fine or possibly even having their car towed.

It also can lead to ill will towards our police officers. That is something we should seek to avoid – particularly in the current national climate which has spawned negative attitudes toward police. We should not have a system that leads to more conflict when there is an easy and viable alternative that would avoid it.

It is important to note, I am NOT advocating for a return to registration stickers and all the problems associated with them. I am merely asking that we return to a two-step process that would require DMV to send out the vehicle registration only after all of the prerequisites for the same are satisfied. The proposed bill includes a *de minimus* increase in the registration fee to cover the estimated costs of (i) converting DMV's computer system; and (ii) sending the second mailing.

I appreciated my constituents telling me about this problem and proposing a workable solution. I hope you appreciate it, too, and agree that this change would be good public policy. Please support this bill. Thank you.