

## Testimony of Daniel Toner

President: 3-D Bail Bonds, Inc

President: DAD's Bail Bonds, LLC

Vice President: Fugitive Recovery Agency, Inc.

Member: Bail Association of Connecticut

Member: Professional Bail Agents of the United States

Senators, Representatives, Members of the Judiciary Committee, this Audience and perhaps most importantly, the people we are all here working for, the Residents of this Great State.

### I am here in **favor of Raised House Bill 6734 – AN ACT CONCERNING SURETY BAIL BOND AGENTS**

As I have mentioned in past testimony, I am extremely proud to have been a Bail Agent for nearly 20 years beginning as an entry level Bail Agent, to building one of Connecticut's largest retail bail operations with agents statewide and offices in Hartford and New Britain. We employ over 20 people most of whom are the chief bread winners (and tax payers) in their families. I have been a strong advocate for bail reform for my entire career.

I am before you again as a citizen of this great state who has extensive knowledge of bail bonds.

**Commercial Bail is the ONLY form of pretrial release that monitors a defendant's criminal case while ensuring compliance and guaranteeing the defendant's appearance in court; at NO COST, and NO RISK to the taxpayer.** All other forms of pretrial release leave the expense and burden of monitoring the compliant defendant and locating and apprehending absconding fugitives to the taxpayer. Without Commercial Bail, we are simply left with hoping the Police are lucky enough to stop an absconding fugitive on a good day. The Officer will then be forced to bring the Absconder in to custody at the risk and expense of their already overburdened Departments and Taxpayers. We must concur, Bail Agents and Bail Enforcement Agents work in very ugly circumstances at horrible hours in the worst parts of town. We bring defendants back to court so their criminal case can be adjudicated.

Raised Bill 6734 provides the teeth necessary to collect the approved premium rates as mandated under Sec.38a-660b and allows Bail Agencies to inform the Court when a defendant is not adhering to the financial obligations of the bond. Presently Bail Agents are **required** to file a civil action for non-payment of premium if an account is 60 days in arrears or if the balance is not paid in full within 15 months of the bonds execution.

This forces us to file civil action against people way too quickly. I know of no other industry where a company is required to sue a customer within 15 days of their second missed payment. It also requires us to file suit on performing debtors. A relatively common, albeit large bond requires payments to be \$765.00 per month. Under current law we are required to sue that individual if their financial situation allowed them to pay **only** \$500.00 per month. This could and would cause hardship for many families – mine and probably yours included.

Thank you for your time and attention, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.