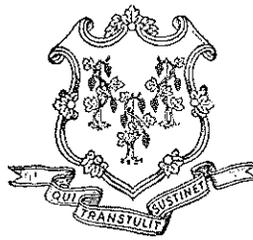


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**Testimony of State Senator Carlo Leone on Senate Bill 193 An Act
Concerning Administration of Hair Follicle Drug Testing by Clinical
Laboratories**

Good morning Chairman Gerratana and Ritter, Ranking Members Markley and Srinivasan, I am writing today in support of S.B. No. 193 An Act Concerning the Administration of Hair Follicle Drug Testing by Clinical Laboratories. The legislation would require a hair follicle drug test when such a test has been ordered by a licensed physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse.

Last year, a constituent of mine wanted his son to get a hair follicle drug test. The son consented because he was less than 18 years of age. However, when the father and son went to the drug testing facility, they were notified that only an employer or a court order can order a drug test, or also notification from a doctor. Their doctor issued the notification, but because it was an improper form they were turned away a second time. They were informed the only way the doctor could prescribe or access the correct form was if, once again, it was a court order or from an employer.

Unfortunately, a few days after the gentlemen tried to get his son tested, his son committed suicide. Maybe if the drug test was allowed to be performed, treatment, therapy, or an intervention could have happened to help the teenager turn his life around. Unfortunately, we will never know, but this is an opportunity for us and our great state to help to prevent further tragedies.

Last year, I submitted this exact same piece of legislation. The legislation overwhelmingly passed the Judiciary Committee, Public Health Committee as well as the Senate. Attached is testimony from last year's public hearing in front of the Judiciary Committee from Jim Cruz, my constituent who lost his son.

From this tragedy, we must act so this scenario does not play out again. Thank you for allowing me to speak in support of this legislation.