

Johanna Krebs  
Mothers Against Drunk Driving Connecticut  
Testimony in Support of Senate Bill No. 365  
March 7, 2016

*"An Act Concerning Child Endangerment While Driving While Intoxicated  
and the Time Limit Under Which to Administer a Test For Blood Alcohol Levels"*

**EVERY CHILD DESERVES A SOBER DESIGNATED DRIVER**

Thank you Co-Chairman Eric Coleman, Co-Chairman William Tong and members of the Judiciary Committee for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. Bill No. 365, a Child Endangerment Law for Connecticut. I am urging the judiciary Committee to enact legislation to protect our most vulnerable population, children. In 2014, 209 children were killed in alcohol impaired crashes, 56% (116 innocent children) were the passenger of the drunk driver.

My name is Johanna Krebs and I am the Program Manager and Court Monitoring Specialist for MADD CT. I am presenting documentation of cases that I have monitored in the past 4 years in which DUI offenders have been arrested for DUI with minors in their vehicles – many of them in your own jurisdiction. They are often charged with Risk of Injury to a Minor, and often the charges are reduced. I have observed that drunk driving with a child passenger is a form of child abuse and no child should ever be put in that kind of danger.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving believes this Committee should support a revision of the current law of Risk of Injury to a Minor. We respectfully request that it be named a **Child Endangerment Law** and that it be stand –alone statute M in 14-227a, the DUI Statute.

MADD is seeking appropriate penalties for operating under the influence with a child in the vehicle; additionally we are asking the you remove the requirement that a test for blood alcohol levels be performed within two hours of operation for purposes of administrative per se hearings; and require that any test not commenced within two hours be established as reliable by expert witness testimony for purpose of criminal prosecution.

Drinking and driving never mix, and it can be especially tragic when there is a child in the car. Children deserve a safe ride, in a safe seat, with a safe - and sober- driver. Thank you.