



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE LEZLYE ZUPKUS
EIGHTY-NINTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

MEMBER
GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Veterans' Affairs Committee
February 23, 2016

Testimony in support of H.B. 5355 **AN ACT ELIMINATING CERTAIN DRIVER'S LICENSE FEES FOR VETERANS.**

Senator Flexer, Senator Martin, Representative Hennessy, Representative Yaccarino and members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in support of H.B. 5355, An Act Eliminating Certain Driver's License Fees For Veterans. The bill seeks to waive the thirty-dollar fee for any individual who wishes to indicate his or her status as a veteran on a reissued motor vehicle operator's license or identity card prior to the expiration date of a previously issued license or identity card.

Currently, Veterans must pay a \$30.00 fee to the Department of Motor Vehicles to obtain an American Flag symbol to indicate Veterans' Status. This fee is unnecessary and insensitive to the men and women who have risked their lives to defend our country. Many of these veterans return to us with physical and mental injuries as a result of their service, and the State should not be burdening them further by forcing them to pay a fee in order to display their status.

Service in our armed forces is something to be proud of and worthy of recognition. Constituents who have reached out to me regarding this fee see it as a deterrent to get the license and feel that the State is punishing them for wanting to display their veteran status. We, the State of Connecticut, should not alienate our veterans and make it difficult for them to proudly display their service. These men and women have given so much for our freedom, and deserve to be rewarded. It is no secret that veterans often have a hard time adjusting to their lives after serving, and a small step to show that we appreciate them is to get rid of this unnecessary fee.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lezlye Zupkus". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "L".

Lezlye Zupkus
State Representative – 89th District
Bethany • Cheshire • Prospect