



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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JUDICIARY 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:

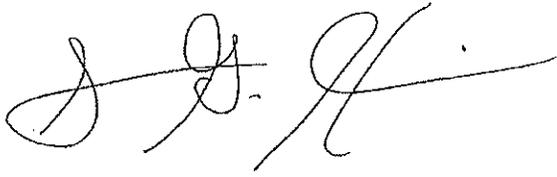
Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in support of H.B. 5355, An Act Eliminating Certain Driver's License Fees For Veterans. The bill seeks to waive the thirty-dollar fee for any individual who wishes to indicate his or her status as a veteran on a reissued motor vehicle operator's license or 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. Our State simply has to find other areas to find revenue, other than off the backs of the men and women who have bravely served us.

We, the State of Connecticut, should do everything in our power to make it easier for our veterans to proudly display their service. These men and women have given so much for our freedom, and deserve to be rewarded. A small step in assisting and welcoming our veterans back to civilian life and to show our appreciation for them is to remove this unnecessary fee. It is the least we can do.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S.G. Harding', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephen G. Harding
State Representative – 107th District
Bethel • Brookfield • Danbury