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Good Afternoon Chairman Coleman, Chairman Tong and esteemed Senators and Representatives and members of this committee,

I would like to demonstrate my **opposition of Raised Senate Bills 18 as drafted and support for Raised House Bill 5634.**

My name is Andrew Bloom. I have been a licensed surety bail bondsman for almost 20 years, bail enforcement agent, and one of the owners of 3-D Bail Bonds, Inc. which employs about 20 people. I am also one of the owners of DADs Bail Bonds, LLC which over the years has represented nearly 10,000 bail bonds written a year, a longtime member of The Professional Bail Agents of The United States, and a founding member, board member and Immediate Past President of the Bail Association of Connecticut.

With respect to SB 18 I would like to make the following brief comment. Simply put, the bail bond system works. The system incentivizes our industry to ensure that individual that have been arrested for a crime appear in court for adjudication. The industry does this at no cost and no risk to the public or state and local governments.

If changes to the system need to be made, please allow the Sentencing Commission to complete their study before rushing into changes this year that will have many unintended consequences.

Simply put, bail bondsmen and women ensure that individuals appear in court.

With respect to public safety it is bail bondsmen and women who are incentivized to ensure that offenders return to court. Our police forces, particularly in the cities are overburdened and underfunded and families and friends are ill equipped to perform this function.

The Connecticut Bail Association strongly supports HB 5634. This is a solid piece of legislation put forth from the findings and work of the Extradition Task Force. As a member of this task force, I strongly recommend adoption.

The purpose of the Task Force was to find ways to save taxpayers from paying for extradition of people who failed to appear on bail bonds and were captured out of Connecticut. The task force worked diligently to develop and draft the proposal that led to this bill. Members included the Chief States Attorney, a US Marshal, representatives from Department of Emergency Services and Public Safety, a

judge, a Judicial District States Attorney and several others including myself. This bill affords for bail agents to pay for extradition through a pool funded by deposits from bail agents.

Thank you,

Andrew (Drew) Bloom