



February 22, 2017

**Testimony submitted to the Connecticut State Transportation Committee  
By Amy Parmenter, Public and Government Affairs Manager, AAA Allied Group**

**In SUPPORT of:**

SB 260 - AN ACT STUDYING AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES

SB 851 – AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES

HB 5185 – AN ACT CONCERNING AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES

My name is Amy Parmenter. As Manager of Public and Government Affairs for the AAA Allied Group, I offer this testimony on behalf of both AAA clubs in Connecticut, the AAA Allied Group and AAA Northeast. Together, both clubs represent more than a million members but the testimony we offer today is on behalf of all drivers across the state and everyone with whom they share the road.

As *the* advocacy organization for all motorists, AAA has, for some time now, been monitoring the advancement of autonomous vehicles and studying the impact of all such technology from a traffic safety perspective.

With more than 90% of all fatal crashes attributed to driver behavior, there is good reason to be excited about the possibility of eliminating drivers from the risk equation but, without question, there is a whole new set of risks to be considered with 'driverless' vehicles as well.

AAA representatives have been actively engaged with automakers and traffic safety stakeholders at the national level, **in an effort to promote progress without compromising safety.**

Driverless cars will not be here tomorrow but partially autonomous vehicles are already on the road and the technology is advancing quickly. Greg Brannon, the Director of Automotive Engineering at AAA, was recently quoted as saying "It's going to be an evolution, not a revolution"... and that evolution is already well underway.

Yet, a recent AAA Allied poll of drivers in our Connecticut territory, revealed that almost 75% of them feel unsafe sharing the road with a vehicle that is even 'partially' autonomous.

The time is ripe for Connecticut to ready its roads - and its residents - for partially, highly and, eventually, fully autonomous vehicles and harmonize the state's driving, insurance and privacy laws accordingly.

Both AAA Allied and AAA Northeast would welcome the opportunity to play an active role in this process, representing the motoring public on any AV task force or working group where our research and resources could be of benefit.

With that in mind, AAA fully supports the study of autonomous vehicles in Connecticut.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Amy Parmenter  
Manager, Public and Govt Affairs  
AAA Allied Group  
815 Farmington Ave  
West Hartford, CT 06107  
(860) 570-4319  
[aparmenter@aaa-alliedgroup.com](mailto:aparmenter@aaa-alliedgroup.com)

Fran Mayko  
Specialist, Public and Govt Affairs  
AAA Northeast  
2276 Whitney Ave  
Hamden, CT 06518  
(203)937-2595x4615  
[fmayko@aaanortheast.com](mailto:fmayko@aaanortheast.com)