



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE CAPITOL
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CHAIR

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

MEMBER

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Good morning Chairs Representative Lemar and Senator Leone, Vice Chairs Senator Bergstein and Representative Simms, Ranking Members Senator Martin and Representative Devlin, and members of the Transportation Committee. My name is Representative Catherine Abercrombie- I represent Meriden, Berlin, and Kensington and am the House Chairwoman of the Human Services committee at the Connecticut General Assembly. I am here today to testify in **opposition** to Senate Bill 66- An Act Concerning the Nonemergency Transportation of Elderly Persons or Persons with Disabilities Confined to a Stretcher.

Concerning the transportation of elderly persons and persons with disabilities, great care in transportation of civilians must be practiced. In review of Senate Bill 66, livery permit holders should not be allowed to transport a person who is elderly or a person with disabilities via stretcher van. Stretcher vans are not built to accommodate patients who may require medical intervention during transport or who may be medically fragile. Stretcher vans, as defined by 19a-180b, are designed and equipped to provide the non-emergency transportation of a person on a stretcher. By this definition, stretcher vans are non-medical mode of transportation that may be unable to meet a patient's medical and safety needs. Livery permit holders are not trained in providing medical assistance to patients that may have inhibiting health conditions during transportation. To support this bill would be inconsiderate to people living with disabilities or who may have health conditions that require medical aide.

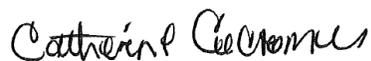
Presently, Medicare pays for ambulance transport of patients to non-emergency medical appointments, if transport by gurney is medically necessary and substantiated. If stretcher vans are to be

recognized as an allowable and appropriate mode of transportation for non-emergency medical appointments, Medicare patients will be responsible for the full cost for the transport, as Medicare does not pay for stretcher van transportation in any circumstance. Last year, nearly 200,000 were enrolled in the DSS Medicare Savings Program (MSP). Unless these individuals are also enrolled in another Medicare category, they are considered “partial dual”. Should CT Medicaid include stretcher vans in its Medicaid non-emergency transportation program, thousands of enrollees that are considered partial dual eligible would be fully financially responsible for transports that happen via stretcher vans.

The Commissioner of the Department of Transportation has stated that, “in order for livery permit holders to register vehicles to be used to transport people through the use of a stretcher van, CTDOT would need to develop a complete set of vehicle specifications and promulgate new regulations for compliance purposes as well as for customer safety. An inspection would also be required for these vehicles. The bill’s language does not specify whether or not CTDOT would be responsible for the additional inspection required.”

I feel as though allowing stretcher vans would be a disservice to the people of Connecticut who rely on non-emergency transportation options to provide them safe transportation.

Thank you for your time and I am happy to answer any questions from members of the committee.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine Abercrombie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Catherine Abercrombie, 83rd District