



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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TESTIMONY

In support of S.B 66
AN ACT CONCERNING THE NONEMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION OF ELDERLY
PERSONS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES CONFINED TO A STRETCHER

Transportation Committee
February 13, 2019

Dear Co-Chairs Leone, Lemar, Ranking Members Martin, Devlin and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee:

Thank you for granting S.B. 66 a public hearing, and for the opportunity to speak in support of this bill.

This concept has been looked at before. Governor Malloy was interested in pursuing this because there is a real cost saving measure in allowing stretcher vans to transport elderly persons or those with disabilities and confined to a stretcher. Currently, stretcher vans are not allowed and these individuals must call an ambulance, each ride costs around \$300.00. Stretcher vans cost substantially less. In 2011, OLR published a report, 2011-R-0140, examining this topic as well as the cost saving measure. Unfortunately this issue was not pursued past 2011.

I believe the time has come for us to revisit this issue once again. In many cases, stretcher vans are more suitable and preferable to transport these individuals. Not only is it a money saving measure, but these individuals have said over and over that they would prefer to ride in the stretcher vans. Our ambulances do a fantastic job, and they all should be commended for all that they do. However, there are times when loved ones can't afford an ambulance or simply would rather travel in a stretcher van. I don't think that is too much to ask.

Thank you for your consideration. Please keep in mind that Connecticut can no longer afford this. It's DSS that pays for these rides, not the client.