March 11, 2019

Hello Co-Chair Cohen, Co-Chair Demicco and members of the committee,

My name is Mary-Ann Langton and I live in West Hartford. I asked my personal assistant, Kacie Ware, to read my testimony that I wrote concerning THE ELIMINATION OF SINGLE-USE OF PLASTIC STRAWS. I OPPOSE this bill, 5358, as it is written. I would encourage you to review the state of Washington Senate Bill 5077, that mandate food entablements must provide plastic straws to people with disabilities upon request. I have emailed this testimony to the committee.

Plastic straws are an essential independent living tool for many people with disabilities including myself. I am unable to drink from a glass or cup due to my physical disability. Not only, I cannot hold a glass or cup and then bring it to my mouth without spilling all of the liquid. Therefore, plastic straws are an essential adaption for my everyday living.

So many people have either given or told me about the metal straws. These straws are dangerous because of all my involuntary movements. The Cromwell Dental Association, where I go for my dental care, strongly advised me NOT to use these metal straws. They are fearful that the metal straws might break my teeth.

Many restaurants have started using paper straws and they no longer have plastic straws upon request. The paper straws DO NOT work for me because I involuntarily bite down on the them. When this happens, I cannot drink thru the straw.

In conclusion, I hope that I have shown you that plastic straws are a necessity in my everyday life. Please vote NO to Bill 5358 and look at the state of Washington Senate Bill 5077 where plastic straws must be provided to people with disabilities.

Thank you