



**Testimony of Kevin Borrup, DrPH, JD, MPA  
Executive Director of the Injury Prevention Center at Connecticut Children's Medical Center,  
to the Children's Committee  
Regarding HB 6484 *An Act Concerning Recommendations by the Department of Transportation*  
March 2, 2021**

Senator Cassano, Representative Lemar, and other esteemed members of the Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts about House Bill 6484, *An Act Concerning Recommendations by the Department of Transportation*.

My name is Kevin Borrup and I am the Executive Director of the Injury Prevention Center at Connecticut Children's Medical Center. I am submitting this testimony in support of Section 16 of this bill, because we know that requiring all vehicle passengers to wear seatbelts keeps kids and families safe.

Before commenting on the bill, I want to provide some background about Connecticut Children's and our work. Connecticut Children's is a nationally recognized, 187-bed not-for-profit children's hospital driving innovation in pediatrics. Our Injury Prevention Center is dedicated to reducing injuries and deaths among the pediatric population. Since our founding, the Injury Prevention Center has sought to educate the public on practical measures that they can take to keep themselves and their children safe. Through research, we know what works and passenger safety is no different.

Each year about 300 people die on Connecticut's roadways, many of them are unrestrained passengers of all ages. Requiring every person seated in a motor vehicle to be appropriately restrained is a commonsense solution to save lives. In fact, unrestrained persons are a danger to everyone else in the vehicle. A sudden stop, or a crash, can send unrestrained persons bouncing around the interior compartment of a vehicle and in the process causing injury to adults and children who, because they are restrained with a seat belt or child passenger safety seat, otherwise would have escaped without injury. We also know that when passengers are present in the vehicle of younger drivers, these drivers are at their greatest risk of getting in a crash. Therefore, I support the amended passenger restraint provisions.

Thank you for your consideration of our position. If you have any questions about this testimony, please contact Emily Boushee, Government Relations Associate at Connecticut Children's, at [eboushee@connecticutchildrens.org](mailto:eboushee@connecticutchildrens.org).