



Connecticut College of Emergency Physicians

Written Testimony

Daniel Freess, M.D., Past President & Legislative Chair of the Connecticut College of Emergency Physicians

**HB 6484, AAC Recommendations By The Department of Transportation**

Transportation Committee

March 3, 2021

Senator Cassano, Representative Lemar, Senator Somers, Representative Carney, and the distinguished members of the Transportation Committee, my name is Daniel Freess. I am a practicing Emergency Physician, a former President of the Connecticut College of Emergency Physicians and the current Legislative Chair. Please accept this written testimony on **HB 6484, AAC Recommendations By The Department of Transportation.**

As front line witnesses to all forms of accidents from the routine to the tragic, our members strongly support this effort to increase seatbelt usage. Passengers who are not wearing their seat belts have been shown to have a 4 to 5 times higher mortality and major injury rate as compared to those who are properly secured. Particularly in children, those wearing a seat belt actually have a very low rate of major injury in both low and high-speed accidents. While we appreciate the personal autonomy allowed by the current law, we feel that the proposed change conveys a significant public health benefit both to individuals and society as a whole.

Thank you for your time and do not hesitate to reach out with any questions, comments, or clarification as needed.