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**Testimony in Support of HB 5726: An Act Concerning the Seizure of All-Terrain Vehicles**  
AND  
**Testimony in Support of HB 6066: An Act Increasing the Penalties for Street Racing**

My name is Rahul Shah. I am a New Haven resident who has completed my pediatric residency training at Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital, and am currently a pediatric emergency medicine fellow at Connecticut Children's. Please note that the opinions expressed below are that of my own and may not represent that of my employer or medical system.

I remember evaluating a teenage boy who was taken to the emergency department. He had been riding along with a friend on an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) on a residential road when it flipped – tossing him into the air before he landed on asphalt. His face was covered in dried blood, coming from several cuts that would require stitches. He required x-rays and a CT scan for his multiple injuries.

In another scenario, a young female presented to the emergency department by ambulance. She was the passenger in a car that had been drag racing before it struck an object on the road. She was entirely unresponsive and required an emergent breathing tube. She had life-threatening bleeding and needed blood transfusions. She was ultimately admitted to a critical care unit for ongoing intensive medical management.

Both of these encounters represent preventable tragedies. In fact, according to the Center for Disease Control, accidents (such as motor vehicle crashes) are the number one cause of adolescent death in the United States of America.<sup>1</sup> Over half of teenage drivers endorsed being in a vehicle that demonstrated risky behavior, such as drag racing.<sup>2</sup> In addition, ATVs tend to be under-regulated, and have disproportionately injured and killed children.<sup>3,4</sup>

Preventing motor vehicle crashes requires a multifaceted approach. I write in favor of these bills, in hope that they will curb unsafe behavior. However, this should be coupled with initiatives to broaden opportunities for children, particularly urban youth, to engage in productive, recreational activities.

I encourage you to vote in **support of HB 5726** and **HB 6066**. I would be more than happy to further discuss these issues with you; please email me at [rahuldshah357@gmail.com](mailto:rahuldshah357@gmail.com) if that would be helpful. I hope you take this opportunity to protect the lives of children in Connecticut.

Respectfully,



Rahul Shah, MD

<sup>1</sup> Curtin, S.C. *National Vital Statistics Reports : From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System*. Vol. 67. Hyattsville, Md. : US Dept of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, 2018. Web.

<sup>2</sup> Sarkar, S. "Acceptance of and Engagement in Risky Driving Behaviors by Teenagers." *Adolescence*. 39.156 (2004): 687-700. Web.

<sup>3</sup> Blecker, Nathan, Rhee, Peter, Judkins, Daniel G, Wynne, Julie L, Friese, Randall S, Kulvatunyou, Narong, Latifi, Rifat, and O'Keefe, Terence. "Pediatric All-Terrain Vehicle Trauma." *Pediatric Emergency Care*. 28.5 (2012): 443-47. Web.

<sup>4</sup> Stolz, Uwe, McKenzie, Lara B, Mehan, Tracy J, and Smith, Gary A. "Assessing Public Opinion regarding Potential ATV-related Policies." *Journal of Safety Research*. 40.2 (2009): 149-55. Web.