

March 11, 2024

Sen. Julie Kushner, Chair
Rep. Emmanuel Sanchez, Chair
Labor and Public Employees Committee
Connecticut State Legislature
Legislative Office Building, Room 3800
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: HB 5470 - AN ACT CONCERNING RIDESHARE AND DELIVERY DRIVER MINIMUM STANDARDS.

Dear Chairs Kushner and Sanchez,

The Connecticut Convention & Sports Bureau (CTMEETINGS) sells and markets the State of Connecticut as a premier destination for national, regional, and statewide group business, conventions, and sporting events. As the State's official sales and marketing organization dedicated to this cause, we work closely with our Connecticut communities to ensure that the State of Connecticut remains an accessible and attractive place for these wide-ranging events, and reliable and affordable transportation is a key component of this mission.

The bill currently before your Committee, HB No. 5470, requires that rideshare drivers receive "no less than 85% of the money collected from each rider" during a rideshare. On its face, the legislation claims to increase driver pay; however, in reality, this bill could drive up ride prices, which in turn would depress ride demand, leading to fewer rideshare trips and lower overall earnings for drivers.

Rideshare companies operate on a dynamic pricing model that ensures that the 80% of drivers who drive part time (less than 20 hours per week) are available to meet fluctuations in ride demand. The proposed changes to this model in HB No. 5470 could fundamentally harm key aspects of Connecticut's transportation system, and CTMEETINGS opposes this legislation for these reasons:

Accessibility: We oppose this legislation because it would limit transportation options available to Connecticut residents and visitors. Rideshare companies use dynamic pricing and driver incentives to encourage drivers to be available when the need for rides is the highest.

Reliability: We oppose this legislation because it undermines the current rideshare model that ensures that drivers are on a schedule that matches the times when the need for rides is the highest, ensuring supply always meets demand.

Safety: We oppose this legislation because balancing supply and demand through incentives and dynamic pricing means more drivers are available to provide safe rides to the thousands of people who use Connecticut's convention centers, music and sports venues, and bars and

restaurants. We are concerned that passage of HB No. 5470 would make ridesharing more expensive and could lead to more impaired driving in Connecticut.

Affordability: We oppose this legislation because it would make rideshare less affordable, driving up ride prices for thousands of price-sensitive passengers and businesses.

At its core, this legislation undermines the very unique benefit that ridesharing provides - affordable, reliable, and safe transportation that is accessible to thousands of visitors and local residents. CTMEETINGS respectfully opposes HB No. 5470 and asks that the Committee not advance this legislation further this session.

Thank you in advance for your consideration on these matters. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,



Robert Murdock

President

Connecticut Convention & Sports Bureau (CTMEETINGS)

robertm@ctmeetings.org

860-882-1103 (o)

860-490-2002 (c)