



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE LAWRENCE F. CAFERO, JR.
ONE HUNDRED FORTY-SECOND DISTRICT

REPUBLICAN LEADER

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
SUITE 4200
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
TELEPHONE
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-1423
FAX: (860) 240-0184

Testimony in Support of HB 6140
Transportation Committee
March 7, 2011

Chairmen Maynard and Guerrero, Ranking Members Boucher and Scribner, and members of the Transportation Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of **HB 6140: *An Act Exempting Certain Persons with Disabilities from Requirements for Snow and Ice Removal from Motor Vehicles.***

As you know, last year the legislature passed Public Act 10-182 requiring all operators of noncommercial and commercial vehicles to clear snow and ice off their vehicles before driving so as to not endanger the lives of other motorists or pedestrians. This legislation was modeled after New Jersey and other states that have similar laws on the books.

This session I initially put forth my proposed bill in response to handicap drivers who contacted me and asked if the legislature would consider exempting them from the law as it would be very difficult, if not impossible, for them to comply. While I fully support them in their efforts to change the law, I would ask the Committee to review the language as it is currently written. The intent is to exempt only those drivers who have a handicap registration and drive the vehicle. It is not my intention to exempt drivers who may be driving a handicap person who is a passenger in the vehicle.

I would also like to take a few moments to discuss the possibility of moving up the effective date of the law for all noncommercial vehicles and certain commercial vehicles. As you may have read recently, the last few months have

yielded at least three different instances of snow and ice becoming dislodged and causing damage and injury. One incident involved a school bus full of kids, and a second incident caused lacerations to the face of a 69 year old driver. These incidents are exactly why I proposed this legislation in the first place.

By deferring the effective date of the law to December 31, 2013, the legislature gave fair consideration to commercial vehicles, especially the bigger, tractor trailer trucks, so that they may have sufficient time to procure or purchase the proper equipment to clear their trucks of accumulated snow and ice. While I still agree and understand why the legislature did that, I would urge the Committee to consider moving up implementation of the law as it applies to all noncommercial vehicles and those commercial vehicles weighing less than 10,000 lbs. I don't know where the larger, commercial vehicles weighing more than 10,000 lbs might be in their process of procuring equipment to comply with the law by December 2013, but I would be interested in talking to them as well to see if it's feasible for them to comply with the law sooner than 2013.

Thank you for taking my comments and proposed changes to the bill into consideration. I'm available to answer any questions you may have at this time.