

**Written Testimony for the General Assembly Transportation Committee**  
**on Raised Bill No. 5429 January Session, 2021 LCO No. 1511**  
**Public Hearing – January 27, 2021**

Statement by the Capitol Region Council of Governments, Lyle Wray, Executive Director of the Capitol Region Council of Governments

Reference: Raised Bill No. 5429.

Representative Lemar, Senator Cassano, Representative Simms, Representative Carney, Senator Somers, and members of the Transportation Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Raised Bill No. 5429: AN ACT CONCERNING PEDESTRIAN SAFETY, VISION ZERO COUNCIL, SPEED LIMITS IN MUNICIPALITIES, FINES AND CHARGES FOR CERTAIN VIOLATIONS, THE GREENWAYS COMMEMORATIVE ACCOUNT AND MAINTENANCE WORK ZONE AND SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY ENFORCEMENT.

As the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the one million residents in the Metropolitan Hartford region, CRCOG has a major role in the allocation of transportation funding to support regional transportation goals. One of the region's core transportation goals is improving safety, which aligns with the intent of this bill. CRCOG recognizes the great need to address pedestrian fatalities, which are increasing more than any other type of traffic fatality. Since 2009, the number of pedestrian deaths nationwide increased by 53 percent, while all other traffic fatalities increased by only 2 percent. In Connecticut, over the past five years the state has averaged about 58 pedestrian fatalities annually, with preliminary crash data for 2020 showing that this number climbed to 65 last year.

CRCOG enthusiastically supports the proposed bill, except for Section 6 (b) which involves parking restrictions and includes special exemptions for the City of New Haven. While CRCOG welcomes this section's guidance, our towns oppose mandatory measures that would disallow parking where it is currently allowed. The specific concern is the potential impact on limited number of downtown area parking spaces. CRCOG would also oppose special exemptions for selected communities. In the event exemptions are merited, the bill language should be revised to allow those exemptions for all communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this important bill. We would be happy to respond promptly to questions.

Thank you for your consideration.

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