



State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

Dear Senator Honig, Representative Foster, Senator Gordon, Representative Anderson, and Members of the Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 632, *An Act Concerning Driver's License and Identity Card Renewals at Veterans' Stand Down Events*. We write as the East Haven Legislative Delegation in response to a mutual constituent who approached us to discuss the barriers veterans face in renewing their driver's licenses and identity cards.

As you are aware, the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs hosts an annual Stand Down event across the state in multiple locations, providing Connecticut's veterans and military personnel with a unique opportunity to access a wide range of services and resources in one convenient and supportive environment. These events offer assistance with housing, employment, financial services, legal aid, and social and medical needs, all in a safe space where veterans can connect with agencies and organizations that specialize in addressing their unique needs.

We would like to recognize the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles for the expanded services it has provided to veterans at Stand Down events in recent years and commend its ongoing commitment to support those who have served our nation. Offering veterans the opportunity to renew driver's licenses and identity cards is an invaluable step in ensuring that veterans have access to essential resources. A valid driver's license or identity card is critical for veterans to navigate their day-to-day lives, whether to secure employment, access medical care, or pursue educational opportunities. Many veterans face barriers such as limited transportation options, physical or financial hardship, and other obstacles that make it challenging to renew these critical documents through traditional channels. Offering these services at Stand Down events, where other veterans' needs are already being addressed, provides an accessible, streamlined, and efficient solution.

While we strongly support SB 632, we also respectfully ask the Committee to consider the broader implications of providing year-round, no-cost driver's license renewals for veterans. To that end, we respectfully request that the Committee review SB 1150, *An Act Providing for No-Cost Driver's License Renewals for Veterans*, which we co-introduced. This proposal, referred to the Committee on January 23rd, would allow veterans to renew their licenses at no cost at any Department of Motor Vehicles location or online, at any time of the year.

SB 1150 would significantly enhance access to this critical service. While Stand Down events are an important annual opportunity, they occur only once per year and we believe a year-round solution would remove this limitation, ensuring that veterans can address their needs promptly and without the burden of travel or added expense. Offering no-cost renewals recognizes the contributions of our veterans and helps to alleviate a financial burden for individuals who have already sacrificed so much in service to our nation.



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We strongly support SB 632 as a step forward in improving access to driver's license and identity card renewals at Stand Down events, and we believe SB 1150 complements this initiative by creating a year-round solution that better serves the needs of Connecticut's veterans. Together, these proposals represent meaningful progress toward honoring and supporting those who have served.

We thank the Committee for its attention to these important matters and urge you to take favorable action on both SB 632 and SB 1150.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Cohen
State Senator, 12th Senatorial District

Paul Cicarella
State Senator, 34th Senatorial District

Vincent Candelora
State Representative, 86th Assembly District

Joseph Zullo
State Representative, 99th Assembly District