



Testimony on House Bill 5762

Submitted by Isabel Blank, External Affairs Manager
February 13, 2019

Good afternoon distinguished members of the Transportation Committee. My name is Isabel Blank. I am Manager, External Affairs at the Yankee Institute for Public Policy, and I am writing to testify in support of **House Bill 5762**, An Act Concerning the Use of Private Contractors by the Department of Motor Vehicles. For questions or follow up, please contact me at isabel@yankeeinstitute.org.

The DMV is the epitome of bureaucracy. In television and movies—even children’s shows—the DMV is referenced as the most miserable form of government inefficiency. Even Governor Lamont said that the DMV is “emblematic” of an archaic state government. Much of that is because the DMV is one of the only departments with which everyday people must interact. If they knew the full extent of bureaucracy as some of us do, maybe we would all complain about something else to our coworkers, or maybe the government would be much smaller, and more services would be privatized.

This bill is bipartisan—although it has Republican sponsors—Governor Lamont has suggested privatization of the DMV and even had an “eight-point-plan” to fix the DMV as part of his campaign.

We’ve already seen the success of using private contractors for a plethora of public services across the state, including DMV services. Contracting with AAA offices in Connecticut has shortened wait times and travel times for people, while unclogging backups at DMV offices. Previous success should inform future action, and you should vote to expand already successful private contracting by passing this non-controversial bill.