

April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013

LA 85

To: Senator Gerzofsky  
Representative Dion  
Members of the Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee

Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you today. I know you're extremely busy. I hope you've had a chance to review the information about me and the suspensions of my license in the packet I submitted. Today, I'd just like to tell you what a hardship it has been being without a license, and how important it is to me to prove myself worthy of an interlocking device. There were some years in my life when I made some very bad decisions and big mistakes. I am not that person any more, and really have learned from my mistakes.

I have been sober since 2006, and plan to stay that way, day by day, for the rest of my life. Being sober has enriched every aspect of my life. I've bought land, built my own home and become very involved in my son's schooling and athletic endeavors. I am a single dad, and sole supporter of Will since his mother passed away in 2011.

Being without a license has kept me dependent on my family and friends, and has seriously impacted my ability to make a living for my son and me. As a private contractor, I've been unable to bid my own jobs, so I've had to work for other people, making much less than I'm capable of earning.

This bill would make me eligible for an interlocking device to be installed on my truck, and my life style would be immensely improved instantly. Having been without a license for going on seven years, I truly appreciate that a driver's license is a privilege and would treat it that way.

I thank you for this opportunity to speak in support of this bill, and I urge you, please, to vote in favor of it.

Sincerely,

William W. Pratt

April 15, 2013

To: Senator Gerzofsky  
Representative Dion  
Members of the Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee

I'm William Pratt and I'm here to speak in favor of LD 85, an Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Ignition Interlock Device Requirements in the Laws Regarding Operation Under the Influence. Thank you for reviewing my situation and hearing my testimony. Below is a timeline depicting the 3-4 years of action I've taken to attempt to obtain an interlocking device to enable me to drive. It's been a long and labor intensive journey as of yet to no avail.

The below listed events began when I discovered I was not getting my license back after 4 years had past, which is what I had agreed to in a plea bargain in 2006.		
DATE	CONTACT	COMMENT
November 2009 - ongoing	David Ott	Began conversations regarding my options. Believed I was to receive my license at this point.
December 2009	Secretary of State	Learned that an additional 4 years had been added to make it a total of 8 years.
Spring 2010	Assistant DA, Local Officials, Attorneys, State Legislators, and Counselors	Names detailed in the attached letter. They suggested that he write to Justice Brennan.
November 2010	Justice Brennan	Letter attached with all pertinent information.
May 10, 2011	Dawn Hill	Initial contact with Dawn Hill describing my situation.
June 13, 2011	Senator Hill	Letter attached with detailed information.
August 6, 2012	Senator Hill	Letters attached with pertinent details.
September 2012	Senator Hill	Phone conversation where she was open to looking into what my options were with the interlocking device under current regulations. Discovered that the current regulations made it not possible for me to qualify.
February 11, 2013	Senator Hill	Email to explaining that a bill was being drafted in an attempt to modify the current law to accommodate people like me.

Enclosures:  
4 letters listed above

November 8, 2010

Dear Justice Brennan,

I am writing to you for two reasons. First, I would like to thank you for sentencing me to jail four plus years ago. It was the six month sentence to jail that led to my sobriety and turned my life around. I will forever be grateful to you for that. The other reason I'm writing is to ask for your guidance and assistance in obtaining a conditional driver's license as I have exhausted every other option I can think of. As far as I can determine there is no way to reconcile the court ordered suspension and the mandate of the Department of Motor Vehicles. There is no review board or hardship clause or any other recourse for someone in my predicament.

Here is a brief summary of what has happened with me. At the time of my plea bargain and sentencing in August 2006 my lawyer told me that after I did the jail time and paid the fines, I would be eligible to get my license back in four years. That is why I accepted the plea bargain and didn't go to trial. When the four years were up I called the DMV and was told that I wasn't eligible for another four years. I have talked with assistant DAs and various lawyers and they all feel I'm getting a bad deal, but no one sees any way to help me. The last lawyer I retained actually said she would be better able to help me if I were to get another violation right now. That just seems wrong to me.

Having no license is truly a hardship. I now have my eleven year old son with me full time, while I continue to pay child support to his mother, who also doesn't have a driver's license due to a medical condition. Will is my only child and his health, wellbeing and happiness is everything to me. It is very difficult to get Will to sport practices and all the other things that eleven year old boys want to do. Though he is athletically talented, he has actually not been able to participate in some of the travel sport he would enjoy due to me not having the ability to get him where he would need to be. Not having a license also keeps me from getting back to where I was years ago as a contractor. I can not bid my own jobs without a license so am limited to simply working at jobs other contractors obtain. Relying on others especially in this economy has made it difficult to remain employed full-time. I feel as though I would have more control over my income, especially in this economic environment, if I was able to find my own work, large or small.

I have been sober going on four and a half years. I've bought land and built a home for my son and me. I've truly learned and am now living the in a way I never knew before. The sense of community one experiences in a small town with a boy who loves the outdoors and sports, has been a big contributing factor to my continued sobriety. Life is good, except for the frustration of not being able to be there for my son in times were he needs me to get him somewhere on a continuous basis. I believe continuing to deny me my license is punitive (for Will too) and does no one any good. I think I would be an excellent candidate for an interlocking device. (I've even heard that someone in the DMV thought I was just what they were looking for to use that device). I would willingly comply with any additional conditions DMV would require of me, including restrictions for my life time. Any restriction would not be a hurdle to me as long as I could get me and my son where we need to be. It has just been impossible for me to find anyone with the authority to hear my side and do anything to help me.

As you can imagine there are many more details to this situation which could make this letter excessively long. I would welcome the opportunity to speak with you about these details or simply listen to any suggestions you might be willing and able to provide. You may contact me via cell phone anytime (day or night) at 207-337-0743. I look forward to hearing from you even if it's just to say hello for a minute.

Thank you for your time, and I will appreciate any help and advice you can give me with this matter.

Sincerely,

William Pratt

P.S. I would enjoy sharing any of my recent accomplishments with you, including a tour of my new home, as I am truly proud of where I've come.

May 10, 2011

Senator Dawn Hill  
3 White Birch Lane  
York, ME 03909

Dear Senator Hill,

Enclosed is a letter I wrote to Justice Brennan about six months ago. It contains pertinent information about my particular situation. He strongly suggested I contact you because he said you are a staunch and vocal advocate of the interlocking ignition device.

Judge Brennan also advised me to contact a number of attorneys in Maine and NH to determine if it were possible to expunge one of my OUI convictions or have it changed to anything else to meet the Maine Department of Motor Vehicle's very strict requirements governing the interlocking device. I talked with David Berry from the Cottage Program at York Hospital who thought I would be eligible for the interlocking device. I've also spoken with Attorney David Ott, Asst. DA John Connelly, Officer Owen Davis, Attorney Mike Scott, Attorney John Webb, Attorney Mary Davis, Attorney James Lorrington and Attorney Mark Stevens. All of these law professionals have sincerely wanted to help me, but haven't figured out a way to do that yet.

Since his suggestion to contact you, I've learned of your persistence and thoroughness in dealing with the MTA. You made history with your success and I believe it is only your kind of determination and thoroughness that can help my situation. I am hopeful that you would be gracious enough to grant me the time to explain my situation more thoroughly. In a nut shell, at the time of my conviction, I believed that I would lose my license for 25 months. Then I was told the DMV was imposing another 2 years. When the 4 years were up in Aug 2010, I called DMV about getting my license back and was told that I wasn't eligible until Apr. 2014. I don't know what else to do. Shouldn't there be a review board or a hardship clause or some way to appeal my case with the DMV?

I want to again reiterate how willing I am to accept any restriction the DMV would put on my license. The interlocking device could be forever, if that works. I truly believe I could be a "poster person or shining example" for this program. And lastly, I just want to state that this Aug. I will have been sober 5 years.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I hope to hear from you. I can be reached day or night on my cell phone 207-337-0743.

Sincerely,

William Pratt

Senator Dawn Hill  
3 White Birch Lane  
York, ME 03909

June 13, 2011

Dear Senator Hill,

Enclosed is a letter I wrote to Justice Brennan about six months ago. It contains pertinent information about my particular situation. He strongly suggested I contact you because he said you are a staunch and vocal advocate of the interlocking ignition device.

Judge Brennan also advised me to contact a number of attorneys in Maine and NH to determine if it were possible to expunge one of my OUI convictions or have it changed to anything else to meet the Maine Department of Motor Vehicle's very strict requirements governing the interlocking device. I talked with David Berry from the Cottage Program at York Hospital who thought I would be eligible for the interlocking device. I've also spoken with Attorney David Ott, Asst. DA John Connelly, Officer Owen Davis, Attorney Mike Scott, Attorney John Webb, Attorney Mary Davis, Attorney James Lorrington and Attorney Mark Stevens. All of these law professionals have sincerely wanted to help me, but haven't figured out a way to do that yet.

Since his suggestion to contact you, I've learned of your persistence and thoroughness in dealing with the MTA. You made history with your success and I believe it is only your kind of determination and thoroughness that can help my situation. I am hopeful that you would be gracious enough to grant me the time to explain my situation more thoroughly. In a nut shell, there were about ten years when I was a drunk. During that time I made a lot of stupid mistakes and very bad decisions. However, I am no longer that person. Come this August, I will be sober five years and I have truly turned my life around.

At the time of my last conviction, I believed that I would lose my license for 25 months. Then I was told the DMV was imposing another 2 years. When the 4 years were up in Aug 2010, I called DMV about getting my license back and was told that I wasn't eligible until Apr. 2014. I don't know what else to do. Shouldn't there be a review board or a hardship clause or some way to appeal my case with the DMV?

I want to again reiterate how willing I am to accept any restriction the DMV would put on my license. The interlocking device could be forever, if that works. I truly believe I could be a "poster person or shining example" for this program.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I hope to hear from you. I can be reached day or night on my cell phone 207-337-0743.

Sincerely,

William Pratt

August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Senator Dawn Hill  
P. O. Box 701  
Cape Neddick, ME 03902

Dean Senator Hill,

I wanted to again reach out to you regarding my challenging situation. Enclosed is a letter I wrote to Justice Brennan about 19 months ago. It contains pertinent information about my particular situation. He strongly suggested I contact you because he said you are a staunch and vocal advocate of the interlocking device. To compound the hardships described in the enclosed letter, my son William's mother passed away September 5, 2011. As you can image being a single Dad has created additional difficulties both financially and logistically.

Judge Brennan also advised me to contact a number of attorneys in Maine and NH to determine if it were possible to expunge one of my OUI convictions or have it changed to anything else to meet the Maine Dept of Motor Vehicle's very strict requirements governing the interlocking device. I talked with David Berry from the Cottage Program at York Hospital who thought I would be eligible for the interlocking device. I've also spoken with Attorney David Ott, Asst. DA John Connelly, Officer Owen Davis, Attorney Mike Scott, Attorney John Webb, Attorney Mary Davis, Attorney James Loring and Attorney Mark Stevens. All of these law professionals have sincerely wanted to help me, but haven't figured out a way to do that yet.

Since his suggestion to contact you, I've learned of your persistence and thoroughness in dealing with the MTA. You made history with your success and I believe it is only your kind of determination and thoroughness that can help my situation. I'm hopeful that you would be gracious enough to grant me the time to explain my situation more thoroughly. In a nut shell, at the time of my conviction, I believed that I would lose my license for 25 months. Then I was told the DMV was imposing another two years. When the four years was up in Aug 2010, I called the DMV about getting my license back and was told that I wasn't eligible until April 2014. I don't know what else to do. Shouldn't there be a review board or a hardship clause or some way to appeal my case with the DMV?

I want to again reiterate how willing I am to accept any restriction the DMV would put on my license. The interlocking device could be forever, if that works. I truly believe I could be a "poster person or shining example" for this program. Lastly, I want to state that this August I have been sober SIX years and have had countless positive accomplishments during my years of sobriety!

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I hope to hear from you. I can be reached day or night on my cell phone at 207-337-0743.

Sincerely,

William Pratt