



State of Connecticut

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TESTIMONY OF REPRESENTATIVE SANDY NAFIS, 27TH DISTRICT

In Support of Raised House Bill 5519 - An Act Concerning Workers' Compensation Premiums and Volunteer Ambulance Companies.

*Labor & Public Employees Public Employees
February 26, 2009*

Thank you for raising Bill 5519 – An Act Concerning Workers' Compensation Premiums and Volunteer Ambulance Companies. I urge your support of this important piece of legislation.

This issue was brought to me by the Newington Volunteer Ambulance Corps in my home town last year, although the bill would affect all community volunteer ambulance companies. Currently, workers compensation premiums are assessed on each vehicle that is owned by a Volunteer Ambulance company. This often is deceptive because, as in Newington's case, only one vehicle is used and two older vehicles are kept as backup in case of mechanical problems with the first. It was suggest that rather than by vehicle, rates for Workers Compensation be assessed by hours of service provided, which they believe would be more affordable to the volunteers.

In short this bill would allow the Insurance Commissioner a method of changing worker compensation premiums which would not discriminate against or penalize any volunteer ambulance service. Again, the volunteer ambulance service would only be charged for the amount of usage oppose to the number of volunteer ambulance vehicles they own.

Many thanks again to the Committee for raising this bill and bringing it up in Public Hearing. If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions.