

State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE ELIZABETH A. BOUKUS
DEPUTY MAJORITY CAUCUS CHAIR
22ND ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4017
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL: 860-240-8500
HOME: 860-747-3366
E-MAIL: Betty.Boukus@cga.ct.gov

CHAIRMAN
BONDING SUBCOMMITTEE

MEMBER
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE
INTERNSHIP COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

February 24, 2011

Testimony for S.B. Bill No. 139

AN ACT CONCERNING PERSONS RESIDING IN ELDERLY HOUSING AND MEMBERS OF SENIOR CENTERS.

Distinguished Chairs and Members of the Aging Committee:

Good Morning, I would like thank the co-chairs Senator Prague and Representative Serra, vice-chair Representative Cook, and ranking members, Senator Kelly and Representative Frey for hearing my testimony today regarding Senate Bill No. 139

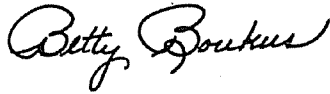
My primary concerns with the proposal of this bill are contained within the provisions of Sec. 2. As it stands, the section requires that a housing authority arrange a developer or corporation to "...remove snow from any vehicle owned by a resident that is lawfully parked on the premises of each such housing project or congregate housing." The senior centers and elderly housing authorities would be faced with a great deal of liability in mandating snow removal from vehicles for the senior residents. Damage to the car, especially the windshield, scratches on the body of the car, mirrors, and other such problems may occur and the majority of responsibility rests largely with those providing a service to senior citizens.

Second, the resources required to mandate such removal of the snow, not only the manual labor, but also the costs that may be associated with this extra service, may put constraints on senior centers and the senior housing budget. The winter season has been among the worst on record, and many senior centers/housing have stretched their resources to assist. The costs can be placed on the consumer, but at

an age where incomes are fixed, it hurts those who cannot afford the extra costs. Overall, this can hurt Connecticut's seniors and put their needs at risk.

The State of Connecticut has done a wonderful job in creating opportunities for senior citizens to live and maintain strong minds and bodies. To hurt the wallets of those facilities who do all that they can to ensure the continued assistance of senior citizens would be a disservice to them and their commitments. I ask that the committee joins me in opposing S.B. 139.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betty Boukus". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Elizabeth "Betty" Boukus