



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK  
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Good Morning members of the Public Safety Committee and Security Committee. My name is Donn Dobson; I am the Fire Marshal for the Town Of Old Saybrook, a member of the Board of Directors for the CT Fire Marshal's Association and President of the CT Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators.

I am here this morning to speak in FAVOR to House Bill 6378, **AN ACT REQUIRING AN AUTOMATIC FIRE EXTINGUISHING SYSTEM IN ALL ONE AND TWO-FAMILY HOMES.** 30-35 people, that is how many people, die in the State of Connecticut annually. In 1978 the State of Connecticut stated to require the instillation of battery operated smoke detection in one and two family homes in order to receive a Certificate of Occupancy; in 1985 that requirement was increased to include hardwired smoke detection with battery backup. In 2005 the requirement was changed once again to include carbon monoxide detectors in the above mentioned. These requirements were all for new homes not existing homes. In that same time frame nationally, with the requirements of smoke detection the numbers of fire deaths went from around 10, 00 annually nationally to about 6500 within two years. Currently the U.S has about 3010 fire deaths in 2009. Which means 8% of those deaths came from the State of Connecticut. The City of New York, a city of 11 million people had 73 fire deaths that year, we were just about half of that total with a population one thirds of the same size.

These changes all drastically changed the outcome of potentially fatal situations. These outcomes are not always the types of things that make it into statistics or reports. This is for the simple fact is the barometer in which we use to gage how well we are doing is how many people we kill annually. I don't not consider this a very good way of telling us how we are doing. So for the last 10 years the State has lost 300-350 people to fire. One death is too much let alone 35 in a state of just over three and one half million people. Which means one person in every 100,000 people **is going to die this year in this State of Connecticut.** These are facts not estimates.

We need to take the next step in the State of Connecticut and require the instillation of sprinklers in one and two family homes. We need to take the lead as we have in the past and do the right thing and be responsible to the citizens of the State of Connecticut.