



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

March 6, 2012

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House Bill 5394 – An Act Concerning Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors and Alarms in Residential Buildings.

The Department of Public Health supports House Bill 5394.

Enactment of this bill will help protect the citizens of the state from the dangers of carbon monoxide (CO) in their homes. The severe snowstorm the state experienced in October 2011 during which 143 cases of CO poisoning were reported, highlights the need for this legislation. DPH conducted a follow-up study of the poisonings resulting from that storm. Of the 60 households that were associated with CO poisoning cases, only 35% reported having a CO detector in the house. Sixty-three percent (63%) of the households were single family residences. This bill would dramatically increase the number of CO detectors in single and two-family residence and thereby greatly decrease the likelihood of another severe outbreak of CO poisoning such that witnessed in October. In addition, the implementation of the provisions of this bill will enhance the efforts of the DPH to educate the public about the risks of CO poisoning.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's view on this bill.

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