



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

**REPRESENTATIVE MICHAEL L. MOLGANO**  
ONE HUNDRED FORTY-FOURTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ROOM 4200  
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591  
HOME: (203) 461-8551  
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700  
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1423  
EMAIL: Michael.Molgano@housegop.ct.gov

**MEMBER**  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

## Testimony

### In Support of Raised House Bill 5394 An Act Concerning Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors and Alarms in Residential Buildings

### Public Safety and Security Committee

**March 6, 2012**

Honorable Co-Chairs Senator Hartley and Representative Dargan, Honorable Vice-Chairs Senator Daily and Representative Jutila, Ranking Members Senator Guglielmo and Representative Giegler, and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify on Raised House Bill 5394, AN ACT CONCERNING SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS AND ALARMS IN RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS.

Stamford, Connecticut has been forever changed by the heartbreaking tragedy that occurred this past Christmas. The lethal inferno that took the young lives of 10-year-old Lily Badger, 7-year-old twins Grace and Sarah Badger, and the lives of their maternal grandparents Lomer and Pauline Johnson continue to grieve our City and the courageous members of the Stamford Fire and Rescue Department who did everything humanly possible to save Lily, Grace, Sarah, Lomer, and Pauline. On behalf of the City of Stamford, I want to thank Chief Antonio Conte, our men and women of the Stamford Fire and Rescue Department, and the men and women of our Volunteer fire departments who put their lives in harm's way every day to protect the lives of the citizens of Stamford.

House bill 5394 provides critical and life-saving measures that will prevent tragedies like the one in Stamford on Christmas morning, 2011. With this bill, the Fire Safety Code will “provide for reasonable safety from fire, smoke, and panic there-from in all buildings, including private dwellings,” the “provision for carbon monoxide detection and warning equipment in all residential buildings,” and the provision for “smoke detection and warning equipment in all residential buildings.” The bill makes clear that any residential building occupied by one or more families that holds a certificate of occupancy prior to October 1, 1985 may use battery powered smoke detection and warning equipment. The bill also requires smoke detection and warning equipment of a type or technology approved by the State Fire Marshal. The bill further adds a certificate of occupancy will not be issued for a residential building unless the fire marshal or building official certifies the “building is equipped with smoke detection and warning equipment and if not exempt under the regulations, carbon monoxide detection and warning equipment. The new regulations for issuing a CO will commence immediately upon the date the section of the bill containing these regulations goes into effect. Finally, HB 5394 adds a new section charging the Commissioner of Construction Services to adopt regulations effective October 1, 2012 that will “amend the 2003 International Residential Code portion of the State Building Code requiring the installation of smoke detection and warning equipment and carbon monoxide detection and warning equipment in a dwelling” whenever work to the dwelling requires a permit and the dwelling will be occupied during such permitted construction.

The difference between a home containing working smoke detectors and warning equipment and working carbon monoxide detectors and warning equipment and a home that does not contain these critical and life-saving measures can mean the difference between life and death. HB 5394 is the necessary tool to ensuring there will never be a dwelling that does not contain these life-saving measures, and I urge the Public Safety and Security Committee move for passage.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael L. Molgano". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Michael L. Molgano  
State Representative, 144<sup>th</sup> District  
Stamford