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Testimony
Sen. Frantz in support of HB 5394
Public Safety and Security Committee Public Hearing
March 6, 2012

Good Morning Representative Dargan, Senator Hartley, Senator Guglielmo, and Representative Giegler. Thank you for the opportunity to testify this morning in favor **HB 5394, An Act Concerning Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors and Alarms in Residential Buildings**.

HB 5394 will require that all residential dwellings have smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. This bill also goes one step further by requiring that dwellings under going work, that requires a permit, which will be occupied during the work, must have these detectors in the house while the renovation is on going. If a worker has to take the detectors down because of work in the area, they must be placed elsewhere in the house to ensure the safety of the residents.

The house fire that occurred in Stamford on Christmas Morning, which took the lives of three children and their Grandparents is as devastating an event imaginable to a family, a community and, in this case, a state. As many read, the cause of the fire was improperly discarded ashes from the fire place that ended up in an area of the house under going renovations, and, although the investigation is not complete, it appears the smoke detectors may have been removed during the reconstruction process.

Unfortunately, this legislation will not bring back the lives of the people lost on Christmas morning, but it will hopefully aid in preventing this and other tragedies like it from happening again. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

L. Scott Frantz
Sate Senator, 36th district