



BILL FINCH
Mayor

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TESTIMONY OF THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
TO THE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
MONDAY, April 15, 2013

RE: H.B. 6683, AN ACT CONCERNING THE ABATEMENT OF A PUBLIC NUISANCE
Senator Coleman, Representative Fox and members of the Judiciary Committee: Thank
you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 6683.

As the chief elected official of the City of Bridgeport, one of the most common
complaints my office receives from residents pertains to establishments involved in
illegal activities. These establishments are a constant nuisance to the community.

My predecessors and I have done everything possible under the law to close these
establishments, but we have all been unsuccessful thus far. Despite our best efforts to
rid our community of these unsavory elements, we are often unable to do so because
the current laws do not have enough teeth to keep these establishments closed
permanently.

In many instances it is common knowledge that businesses are involved in illegal
activity. These establishments and the element that they attract have a negative impact
on the quality of life of the community. Parents are afraid to let their children out of the
house and seniors fear leaving their homes once the street lights come on.

I believe that House Bill 6683 will strengthen the legislation passed last year and will
give us the ability to aggressively pursue legal action against any establishment
participating in criminal activity. I commend Representative Grogins for continuing to
pursue and strengthen such a thoughtful and helpful piece of legislation.

House Bill 6683 will strengthen the current law and provide law enforcement greater strength in shutting down these illegal establishments, involved in a variety of criminal activities, including but not limited to: prostitution, human trafficking, drug selling, assaultive and dangerous behavior and gun violence. For example, a shooting occurred last year in Bridgeport's East End at a business that has been a chronic nuisance for years. Two people were injured and one person was left in critical conditions. Under this law, the police would have been able to close this establishment and give the neighborhood the peace of mind and security that they have been requesting for years.

Closing these establishments will have a positive impact on quality of life and economic development of our communities. Eliminating these recurring criminal acts will make it possible to revitalize our communities, bringing in new investors and families while improving the environment for our current residents and businesses.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to address this issue and for allowing me to provide testimony. I encourage you to pass H.B. 6683 and should you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Bill Finch
Mayor