



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE JASON ROJAS
9TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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CO-CHAIRMAN
Planning & Development Committee

MEMBER
Education Committee
Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee

March 7, 2014

Rep. Gentile, Albis and Shaban. Senators Meyer, Maynard and Chapin and member of the Environment Committee. Thank you for raising H.B. 5418 AN ACT CONCERNING FINANCIAL LIABILITY FOR THE CLEAN-UP OF CERTAIN HAZARDOUS WASTE and for the opportunity to be heard today. The issue that lead to this bill request came from a constituent who approached me last year after her son died in a tragic accident in which he fell out of a second story porch and died from the impact on a sidewalk below. The fire department attempted to wash away blood and other human matter but only spread it further to a point where a specialized company had to perform the clean-up. The costs were in the tens of thousands of dollars and while I recognize that there is a cost to the public for the remediation of hazardous incidents I immediately questioned a policy in which we allow the state to try and recoup some of those costs from families impacted by a tragedy like happened to my constituent. I also questioned to what degree is this policy applied fairly and equitably? Does the state attempt to recoup the cost of clean-up in all situations in which a loss of life has occurred? These are questions we should have answered. As a matter of policy I think we should limit the state's ability to recoup money from families who have experienced the loss of a loved one and that we should not allow life insurance policies or estates to be places where the state attempts to cover the cost of clean-ups. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I would be happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Rojas'.

Jason Rojas
Representative-9th District