



**David Martin**  
Mayor



**Charles E. Spaulding**  
Chief Fire Marshal

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Testimony of Chief Fire Marshal, City of Stamford  
Charles E. Spaulding S.B. No. 18  
February 19, 2015

To the Public Safety and Security Committee,

I'm writing in support of S.B. No. 18 "An Act Establishing a Task Force to Study Hoarding". On numerous occasions I have personally witness the hazards caused by people who suffer from the effects of hoarding. I have seen hoarding conditions in single family homes as well (multi-family) apartments. Hoarding creates a condition that not only adds to the fire load, but impedes egress both for occupant(s) inside trying to escape and emergency personnel trying to get in.

There is a need for a task force of professionals to work together to ensure that first responders are in compliance with legal and ethical regulations toward the health and safety of the person who hoards and the affected others in and the home.

Given the complex nature of hoarding conditions and the demands on public agency's personnel time and fiscal resources, coordination of response and care is a critical component of intervention. Establishing a task force would enable the various disciplines (Social Service, Health Care, Fire Marshals, Etc.) to coordinate their efforts and work toward positive outcomes.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Charles E. Spaulding  
Chief Fire Marshal  
City of Stamford