



State of Connecticut

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Public Safety and Security Committee
Public Hearing Testimony
February 19, 2015

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 18, An Act Establishing A Task Force to Study Hoarding

Good Evening Co-Chairs Senator Larson & Representative Dargan, Vice Chairs Senator Coleman & Representative Verrengia, Ranking Members Senator Guglielmo & Representative Zupkus, and esteemed members of the Committee,

My name is Devin Carney and I am the State Representative for the 23rd District, including Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, and Westbrook. I am here tonight to testify in *support* of Senate Bill 18, An Act Establishing A Task Force To Study Hoarding.

Hoarding is a recognized disorder that can arise due to a wide variety of reasons, from mental illness, old age, disability, or even drug and alcohol abuse and it can cause concern in areas such as physical/mental well-being, public safety, and animal safety. Since the disease is so multifaceted, having a task force of experts from the wide array of professions that encounter hoarders is an important first step to better understand and treat this disorder.

The complex nature of this disorder requires attention and investigation to better serve those with the disorder and those affected by it (family members, neighbors, public safety community). The disease affects roughly 2-5% of the total population in various capacities, so it is something that all of our communities face. As a response to growing concerns, many communities across the country have established task forces that have helped hoarders stay in their homes and turn their lives around. A task force in Connecticut can assist in helping those affected by the disorder by educating the community, providing 'best practices' advice to public safety and medical professionals, and preventing tragedy.

We have the opportunity here to truly help those in need and make some very positive changes in the lives affected by this tragic disorder. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Devin Carney
State Representative
23rd District