

UNIFORMED PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT

AFFILIATED WITH INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

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Good afternoon, Honorable Chairmen Rep. Dargan, Sen. Larson, Honorable members of the Public Safety and Security Committee, my name is Richard Hart. I represent the Uniformed Professional Firefighters Association of Connecticut which represents 60 Local affiliates of the International Association of Firefighters. Membership in the UPFFA is comprised of approximately 4,000 Union firefighters in Connecticut.

I am submitting testimony in **support** of SB 1012 An Act Concerning Smoke Alarms in Residential Buildings.

The data supporting the presence of smoke alarms in homes is overwhelming. Unfortunately, in many homes, batteries are removed for whatever reason. By mandating the installation of 10 year, nonremoveable, nonreplaceable battery the affect is twofold. First, research and technology has indicated that ten years is the maximum life span of these alarms. Second, by making the batteries nonremovable, nonreplaceable, the State is ensuring the alarms are not tampered with and will operate as designed. Early detection of fire is imperative to increasing survivability for occupants, therefore, please move this bill forward.

Richard Hart

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