



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE FRED CAMILLO
ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIRST DISTRICT

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ASSISTANT HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

RANKING MEMBER
COMMERCE COMMITTEE

MEMBER
BANKING COMMITTEE
EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

TESTIMONY

In support of:

**SB 699, AAC ESTABLISHING A MINIMUM AGE FOR TOWING ANY PERSON BY
VESSEL AND REQUIRING THE COMPLETION OF A SAFE TOWING COURSE
PRIOR TO ENGAGING IN SUCH TOWING BY VESSEL**

Environment Committee

February 27, 2015

Dear Sen. Kennedy, Rep. Albis, Sen. Chapin, Rep. Shaban and distinguished members of the Environment Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to speak at this public hearing in support of SB 699, AAC ESTABLISHING A MINIMUM AGE FOR TOWING ANY PERSON BY VESSEL AND REQUIRING THE COMPLETION OF A SAFE TOWING COURSE PRIOR TO ENGAGING IN SUCH TOWING BY VESSEL. This bill, if passed and signed by the Governor, would forever be known as "Emily's Law", after a young girl who was tragically lost last Summer in a boating accident in Greenwich.

We all know that we can't prevent tragedies with legislation, but we absolutely have a duty and obligation to enact laws that lessen the chances of certain types of accidents occurring, as well as putting in place educational steps that will at least equip people with a basic knowledge of how to act and react in situations. In this case, the addition of a towing endorsement to the eight hour course that is now the required step in Connecticut for anyone wishing to receive a boating license. After several meetings with interested parties, including boaters, sailors, and commodores, over the course of several months, the agreed upon language and goals of the bill before this committee is

something that was reached by consensus and with the most measured approach. The last thing we wanted was to have a bill put forth that had unintended consequences, or that was nothing more than a superficial attempt to react to a horrific accident. We believe this bill accomplishes the goals we set out to enact, namely extracting a positive, in this case boater safety and awareness, out of tragedy. We also believe that Emily's Law's will leave a legacy of safety and awareness that will decrease the chances of this happening again.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fred Camillo". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Fred Camillo
State Representative