



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE MIKE BOCCHINO
ONE HUNDRED FIFTIETH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4200
300 CAPITOL AVENUE
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1423
Mike.Bocchino@housegop.ct.gov

MEMBER
COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN
ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT
ADVANCEMENT 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 public hearing and the opportunity to speak today in support of **SB 699, AN ACT 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**. I am Rep. Mike Bocchino and I represent the 150th district in the Town of Greenwich and home to Emily Fedorko for whom this bill is named.

Although the primary duty of the state legislature is creating and amending state laws, we have a responsibility to the residents of CT to do everything in our power to keep them safe.

SB 669 is a clear example of how educating the public can help keep them safe and help to prevent unnecessary tragedies from occurring on our waters.

As a co-sponsor of this bill I have met with many in the boating industry and boating communities, all of which have agreed that this bill is a positive step forward to establishing safer waterways for all recreational boaters. I have also met with law

enforcement, specifically Marine division personnel, who feel that this specific piece of legislation would create no extra burden to those looking to acquire a personal watercraft operating license, or to those who already have such a license and would be required obtain a safe towing endorsement.

I have heard on numerous occasions about some legislation having been put forth as a knee jerk reaction to a situation, incident or an unfortunate tragedy. SB 699 is not the case. This proposal before you is a quality piece of legislation that addresses a specific lack of education for a very popular recreational activity throughout our State. Make no mistake this is not reactive legislation, this is RESPONSIBLE legislation. This is responsible legislation that deserves bi-partisan support. I urge you to support SB 699 and I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Bocchino". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mike Bocchino
State Representative