

SENATOR MARTIN M. LOONEY  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Eleventh District  
*New Haven, Hamden & North Haven*



State of Connecticut  
SENATE

State Capitol  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1591  
132 Fort Hale Road  
New Haven, Connecticut 06512  
Home: 203-468-8829  
Capitol: 860-240-8600  
Toll-free: 1-800-842-1420  
[www.SenatorLooney.cga.ct.gov](http://www.SenatorLooney.cga.ct.gov)

February 13, 2015

Good morning Sen. Osten, Rep. Miller and members of the Planning and Development Committee. I am here to testify in support of SB 460 AN ACT REGARDING IDENTIFYING RESIDENTS IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE.

The National League of Cities (NLC) through the Local Interventions for Financial Empowerment through Utility Payments (LIFT-UP) devised an innovative program which uses unpaid municipal utility bills to identify residents who are likely to be in need of support. Under this pilot program, the cities of Houston, Savannah, Ga; Louisville, Ky.; St. Petersburg, Fla. and Newark, N.J. partnered with NLC to launch this initiative that identifies residents with unpaid bills and then intervenes with needed assistance in order to help residents with financial and economic stability. Residents with these unpaid municipal utility bills who join the program receive assistance with the unpaid bills providing they take part in financial counseling and education offered by the municipality. The counseling would address issues broader than just the currently unpaid bills. The municipality also investigates whether the resident is in need of additional services.

Allowing Connecticut municipalities to create a similar pilot program would offer another method of recognizing residents who may be in critical need of services but who may not know how to access them. Thank you for hearing this important legislation.