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PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

TESTIMONY OF
REPRESENTATIVE LINDA ORANGE,
48TH DISTRICT OF COLCHESTER, LEBANON, WINDHAM, MANSFIELD
Insurance and Real Estate Committee
Public Hearing March 10, 2016

RE: HB 5518 AN ACT IMPOSING A SURCHARGE ON CERTAIN PERSONAL RISK INSURANCE POLICIES TO FUND REGIONAL FIRE SCHOOLS' OPERATING BUDGETS AND CERTAIN FIREFIGHTER TRAINING COSTS AND PURCHASES OF FIRE EQUIPMENT.

Good afternoon Co-Chairs, Senator Crisco and Representative Megna, and distinguished members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee. Thank you for raising HB 5518 An Act Imposing a Surcharge On Certain Personal Risk Insurance Policies To Fund Regional Fire Schools' Operating Budgets and Certain Firefighter Training Costs and Purchases of Fire Equipment.

Our Regional Fire Schools provide professional development for community fire and rescue services. Their mission is to protect our citizens and our property. During the past few years they have undergone numerous budget cuts. This bill will ensure that they all will receive adequate funding.

Imposing this surcharge on certain personal risk insurance policies would assist in the funding of local fire schools as well as provide needed training. Firefighters throughout our state will be eligible for Fire Fighter I training...the basics needed to go into a burning building. There will also be funding for Fire Fighter II and on...helping Connecticut train these needed personnel. Lastly, the funds can also be used to purchase needed equipment (in bulk) by the state, such as 2nd set of turn out gear or new SCBA equipment.

Implementing this fund will save not only the State of Connecticut but also our municipalities, while at the same time making Connecticut a leader in fire safety and training. I urge this committee to move this bill forward. Thank you for your time.