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State of Connecticut  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**REPRESENTATIVE PEGGY SAYERS**  
SIXTIETH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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**DEPUTY SPEAKER**

**MEMBER**  
COMMERCE COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

**TESTIMONY OF REPRESENTATIVE PEGGY SAYERS, 60<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT**  
**Public Safety and Security Public Hearing**  
**March 8th, 2016**

Senator Larson, Representative Dargan and distinguished member of the Public Safety and Security Committee, I am here to testify in support of House Bill 5544.

This bill is a result of work done by the MORE Commission on Regional Efficiencies. Our committee has had a chance to really look at this issue and I feel that it is not only less expensive, and safe, but also provides better quality service.

As an example, I represent two towns, Windsor, with a population of 29,044 people. On average, Windsor has 798 calls a month, 27 calls in a 24-hour period. Windsor Locks with a population of 12,500 and 353 calls a month, 12 calls in a 24-hour period. Compare this with Hartford, which has a population of 124,775 people, receives 11,654 calls a month and 388 calls in a 24-hour period.

With a larger regional area, we can have better trained and more qualified staff. Now, 50 of our PSAP's receive fewer than 24 calls daily. In a disaster with multiple calls, they would not be trained to handle the emergency.

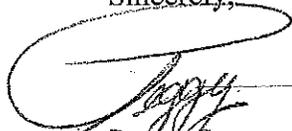
Regional PSAP's have: lower operating costs due to regional efficiencies; provide the opportunity to invest in cost-effective technology with more up to date equipment, and in-house IT and GIS capability. They cannot only send the service to the right house, but they can visualize it, and tell them what door to enter.

We have heard the excuses why this will not work, but there are better ways of handling the other tasks that dispatchers do. The fact that they have time to do other work, points to the inefficiency of the current system.

We know that regionalization works, we have Litchfield County with 19 towns, Quinebaug Valley with 16 town, and Tolland County with 12 towns, just to name a few.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,



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Peggy Sayers