

# UNIFORMED PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT

AFFILIATED WITH INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

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Good afternoon, Honorable Chairmen Rep. Dargan and Sen. Larson, members of the Public Safety and Security Committee, my name is Richard Hart. I represent the Uniformed Professional Firefighters Association of Connecticut which represents 57 Local affiliates of the International Association of Firefighters. Membership in the UPPFA is comprised of approximately 4,000 Union firefighters in Connecticut.

I am submitting testimony in **support** of SB 124, AA Requiring Smoke Detectors in Residential Buildings.

According to the United States Fire Administration (USFA), in 2013 there were 244,700 fires in 1 and 2 family homes. The number of deaths in these same homes was 2,250. This is unacceptable.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) states the "Three of every five home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. No smoke alarms were present in more than one-third (37%) of the home fire deaths." By requiring all residential buildings in Connecticut to install smoke detectors, we can greatly reduce, if not eliminate fire deaths in Connecticut's 1 and 2 family homes where our MOST vulnerable residents live-children and the elderly. For approximately \$35, homeowners can purchase combination smoke and carbon monoxide detectors from Home Depot.

That is a small price when the cost is a human life.

**Please move SB 124 on in the process.**

Richard Hart  
*Richard Hart*  
DIRECTOR  
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