

To the Public Safety and Security Committee:

My name is Alan Zygmunt, 167 Marion Ave Plantsville, CT.
I work full time as a fire fighter for the Town of Southington and I also teach Public Fire Education classes to firefighters throughout the state.

In my nearly 30 years of experience working as a fire fighter I have seen both the human tragedy and extreme property losses that home fires can cause. Fire fighters fight about 75 % of all fires in homes and this important piece of Legislation will help protect not only the homes but most importantly save lives of occupants. Fire sprinklers have proven their worth in saving lives for years and are an incredibly reliable system that can have a profound impact in the aftermath of a home fire. Fire damage is kept to a minimum and the operating sprinkler systems have nearly a perfect record in preventing fire deaths in buildings where they are present.

A review of 10 years of fire death statistics in Connecticut show that nearly one third of all fatalities during that period are over the age of 65. With this age group often facing mobility challenges, the installation of fire sprinklers in these buildings would provide them with both additional escape time and early warning of a fire.

Although there would be a minimal installation costs to these buildings when they are being built, the potential lives saved of all family members in the building far exceeds the construction cost. I am wholly in favor of this vital legislation that can drastically reduce the potential for fire deaths in the State of Connecticut. Thank you.

Alan Zygmunt