Co-Chairs and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee, I, Maritza Bond a Director of Health for the City of Bridgeport respectfully submit written testimony in support of House Bill 6955: An Act Adopting the International Property Maintenance Code as this aims to improve quality housing a critical matter of public health enforcement. Adopting the International Property Maintenance Code establishes the minimum and most essential standards for the health, safety and general welfare of the people who live and work in this community. The International Property Maintenance Code has already been adopted in 36 states and the District of Columbia. Taking a proactive rather than reactive approach to property maintenance stabilizes and maintains the viability of aging building and housing stock and reduces the number of building demolitions.

The International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC):
- Is a tool community can use to correct and prevent conditions that can adversely affect quality of life, accelerate building deterioration and breed slums, blight and crime
- Prevents the overcrowding of dwelling units by putting limitations on the number of persons who can occupy a dwelling
- Maintains property values by protecting the character and stability of all buildings

The IPMC also encompass a complete set of code provisions in a single source, covering all aspects of interior and exterior property maintenance for residential and nonresidential buildings. This eliminates the need for a handful of separate laws and ordinances. This is particularly significant when attempting to enforce legislation on landlords, developers or investors who cross city lines. While standardization is essential, this statute must consider the financial implications or resources required to effectively execute this statute. Hence, as a local Public Health agent, request that this bill be passed as a state funded mandated which will support municipalities and local health departments across the state.

Thank you for your consideration. For additional information, please contact me at: (203) 576-7680 or Maritza.Bond@bridgeportct.gov

Respectfully submitted by,

Maritza Bond, MPH
Director of Health & Social Services