



January 11, 2006

CCCNHR
Board Members:

Advocates for Loved Ones
in Nursing Homes

Connecticut Association of
Area Agencies on Aging

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Employees Association,
Council 400 (CSEA
Retirees)

Greater Hartford Legal
Assistance

Legal Assistance Resource
Center of Connecticut, Inc.

New England Health Care
Employees Union, District
1199

The Honorable John B. Larson
United States House of Representatives
221 Main Street, 2nd Floor
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Congressman Larson:

The Connecticut Citizens' Coalition for Nursing Home Reform (CCCNHR) is pleased to support the Nursing Home Fire Safety Act of 2005.

As you well know, in February 2003 a fire killed 16 people at a Hartford nursing home that was not equipped with an automatic fire sprinkler system. While the Connecticut General Assembly passed legislation in 2003 to require all nursing homes to be fitted with automatic fire sprinkler systems, sadly, the deadline set for nursing homes to comply was recently delayed. Because CCCNHR wants to make certain that our state's - and nation's - vulnerable nursing home residents are protected, we support your national Nursing Home Fire Safety Act.

We are pleased that your bipartisan bill, like the Connecticut law, would provide financial assistance to nursing homes to spur the installation of this most important defense to fatal fires. Furthermore, we hope the legislation compels the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to adopt the 2005 Life Safety Code requirement for automatic fire sprinklers in all nursing facilities.

CCCNHR again thanks you for introducing this life-saving legislation.

Sincerely,

Jane McNichol
CCCNHR Board, Chair

Steven C. Kilpatrick
CCCNHR Board Member
NCCNHR Board Member