

PA13-275

HB6374

House	7522-7529	8
Public Safety	385-389, 459-461, 472-477, 488-497, 604-611	32
Senate	5296-5322	27
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H – 1171

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2013**

**VOL.56
PART 22
7261 – 7611**

Those voting aye 140

Those voting nay 1

Absent and not voting 9

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The bill as amended passes. Will the Clerk
please call Calendar 270

THE CLERK:

Mr. Speaker, Calendar number 270 on page 43,
favorable report of the joint standing Committee on
Finance, Revenue and Bonding, substitute House Bill
6374, AN ACT CONCERNING COORDINATED LONG TERM

DISABILITY RELIEF AND RECOVERY.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Distinguished Chairman of the Public Safety
Committee, Representative Dargan, you have the floor,
Sir.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I move
acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report
and passage of the bill.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The question is on acceptance of the joint
committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.
Will you remark?

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Let me briefly just start out by thanking Minority Leader, Representative Cafero, good freshman member of the committee, Representative Zuckus and of course my good Ranking Member, Representative Giegler. Mr. Speaker, this bill is an important bill that is before us here today. Over the past couple of years Connecticut residents have experienced five natural disasters in the last two years as well as the horrific Sandy Hook shooting.

For each of those five disasters the Governor has requested and received that presidential decoration that enabled cities and towns and in some cases individuals to receive FEMA disaster assistance. While the federal disaster aid is certainly welcome it does not allow the recipients to return to the predisaster financial condition.

Mr. Speaker, there's been many emergency events in our State that have had drastic effects on communities due to not meeting that so-called FEMA threshold for assistance. For example such an incident occurred via tornado that devastated a section of Bridgeport, Connecticut on June 24 in 2010.

Despite the State's efforts we were unable to secure that FEMA disaster decoration.

Nonetheless there was at least 55,000 people without power in the summer heat for up to ten days and dozens were injured. The majority of the affected community members were renters without insurance, they lost many possessions and 50 families were temporarily homeless.

So this bill before us will set in place that decoration. It does not impact at all the nonprofits that we work in a collaborative effort with whether it be the Red Cross or United Way. It sets up a structure in order for individuals to donate monies. It's a separate account that will be facilitated through the State and since there already ten other states that have done this there's another example of the storm that we had last year, storm Sandy.

In Madison Square Garden did an event where a number of disbursements were given out to affected areas in New Jersey and New York and not in our State. There is a limited amount of monies that were given out to our food kitchens but by passing this important legislation today we'll work in a more collaborative effort to get monies to people that are impacted that

might not necessarily receive funding from FEMA or other State and local agencies and other nonprofits.

So I think this important legislation that we have before us and I really thank the work of my Ranking Members and the other individuals that I mentioned.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, Sir. Do you care to remark further on the bill before us? Representative Zuckus of the 89th.

REP. ZUCKUS (89th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to make a comment. Through you. Okay. Do I just -- oh, okay. I -- I do believe that this is a good idea for this fund. So when god forbid something happens that there is some structure into place -- to be put into place and be prepared to handle that.

I did have a lot of questions about this and the good Representative answered a lot of them and had them answered for me. And some of my concerns on this were why the money was going to be held in the State Treasurer's Office.

How it would affect other local nonprofits in the area? And would this become another State Department?

What was the process of the applications when people wanted to apply for this money? How were the funds going to be raised? And would it become a funding for State agencies? How were the -- were officers or board members going to be paid? Who was going to ensure that donor intent was applied?

What would happen if there was leftover money in a restricted fund or if all the money spent and still was not being able to -- the disaster was not being able to be finished taken care of. And there were many other questions that I had but after a few conversations I am comfortable with this and I do think that it is a good fit. Thank you.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, Madam. Do you care to remark further on the bill that's before us? Representative Giegler.

REP. GIEGLER (138th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the Chairman of the Public Safety Committee for all his hard work on this bill along with the Governor's Office who was so available to us with the many questions that we had after our public hearing and our committee meetings. This bill establishes an endowment fund which must be held in a trust.

The different funds will go toward financial payments to individuals that are need based. There's also public assistant funds which will be local emergency funding to municipalities and nonprofits. And the funds will be there for victim relief funds. The -- the bill is modeled after other foundations that the State has. And with the different disasters that we've had of recent it really became evident that we needed to have something structured within the State of Connecticut. So I urge my colleagues' support. Thank you.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, Madam. Do you care to remark further on the bill that's before us? Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of the bill and I wanted to thank the -- the good Chair of Public Safety and the Ranking Member as well for their good work. But for legislative intent I would ask that as we dispense with this account in regards to offering support for those in need that we make a diligent effort to incorporate the local nonprofits that are in our community, that as we collect as a State entity these kind of funds that -- that from

throughout the country to support an incredible need that we learn to incorporate the local component so that they have input and that they truly become a partner in -- in the community that's affected. So for legislative intent I thank the good Chair for his good work but I would encourage that when we implement this that we incorporate local input on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, Sir. Do you care to remark further on the bill that's before us? Do you care to remark further on the bill that's before us? If not, staff and guests to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll.

The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Will members please return to the Chamber immediately.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? If all the members -- members please check the board to make sure your vote is properly cast. If all the members have voted the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally. Will the Clerk please

announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Substitute House Bill 6374.

Total Number Voting 143

Necessary for Adoption 72

Those voting aye 112

Those voting nay 31

Absent and not voting 7

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The bill passes. Will the Clerk please call
Calendar number 629.

THE CLERK:

Calendar number 629 on page 32 of the Calendar,
favorable report of the joint standing Committee on
Higher Education and Employment and Advancement,
substitute Senate Bill 1139, AN ACT CONCERNING CHANGES
TO PROGRAM APPROVAL FOR THE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
EDUCATION.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Distinguished Chairman of the Higher Education
Committee, Representative Willis, you have the floor,
Ma'am.

REP. WILLIS (64th):

Thank you. Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker.

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2013**

**VETO
SESSION**

**VOL. 56
PART 17
5161 - 5482**

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.
Senators please return to the chamber. Immediate roll
call on has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

If all members have voted? All members have voted,
the machine will be closed.

Mr. Clerk, will you please call the tally.

THE CLERK:

House Bill 6160

Total Number Voting	34
Those voting Yea	27
Those voting Nay	7
Those absent and not voting	2

THE CHAIR:

The bill has passes.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page 13, Calendar 676, Substitute for House Bill
Number 6374, AN ACT CONCERNING COORDINATED LONG-TERM
DISASTER RELIEF AND RECOVERY, favorable report of the
Committee on Public Safety and Security.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Good afternoon, Madam President, again.

And I move acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report, Madam, and passage of the bill in concurrence with the House.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on adoption and passage.

Will you remark -- and in concurrence with the House?

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Thank you.

Yes, indeed, Madam President.

This bill establishes what we call CT CARE, that is the Connecticut Coordinated Assistance and Recovery Endowment. It is a tax-exempt foundation with a governing board. It is for the purpose of supporting coordinated emergency recoveries in the case where state services are affected by natural disaster, acts of domestic terrorism, catastrophic events, or other such unforeseeable emergencies.

It also establishes CERF, which is the Coordinated Emergency Recovery Fund, under CT CARE. And this is under the state treasurer's custody and it is for the purpose of receiving and dispersing private funds to CT CARE to provide relief for victims and assistance to individuals and not-for-profit organizations affected in such times by such emergencies.

This is a unique entity which was an initiative from the Governor's Office, and I commend the Governor and the staff that worked on this because it is a pretty unique entity which would allow us, for example, in the instance -- and we were just visited last night by the families and certainly touched by all of those through that terrible tragedy -- but an entity, such as this, will be in existence and ready to react and begin to receive and assist individuals immediately.

We found that, at least in the incidence of the December tragedy that befell Sandy Hook, that there was a bit of difficulty getting started in receiving the money, determining how to allocate it, and quite

frankly, in the instance of an existing not-for-profit that covers a panoply of other kinds of services that they sometime become taxed and are not equipped to do this as efficiently, as needed, in terms of assisting in these tragedies.

So I am very grateful to have an opportunity to bring this before the chamber and ask for my colleagues' support on it, Madam President. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark? Will you remark?

Senator Guglielmo.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO:

Thank you, Madam President

Through you, two questions to the proponent --

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO:

-- Senator Hartley, for legislative intent, I just wanted to be certain that this money couldn't be swept from the account.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Through you, Madam President to Senator Guglielmo, good question, and the answer is no, sir.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Guglielmo.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO:

Thank you.

Just a couple more, another question that came up was that some of the established groups in doing this type of work, like the Red Cross, had some concerns and I didn't know if those concerns were addressed. The idea being that they've done this kind of thing for years and the Salvation Army as well, and I just wanted to know if those objections had been addressed to the satisfaction of the chairs of Public Safety.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Yes, Madam President, through you, to Senator Guglielmo, the ranking senator who has contributed greatly to all of the work in Public Safety, not the least of which is the piece before us, yes, indeed, we did seek input from all of the entities. And to your point, they provide very important work on this -- these kinds of initiatives, and the truth be known, they may even be a recipient from the CT CARE. So, I think it's going to be a great partnership going forward.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Guglielmo.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO:

Thank -- thank you, Senator Hartley.

That answers my question, and I will be supporting the bill. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you very much.

Will you remark further?

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you, Madam President.

A couple of -- it's an intriguing idea, and I want to be able to wrap my hands around it a little bit better. And I may be supportive, but I do have a couple of questions, through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you.

Senator Hartley, the typical donor or type of donor that you see donating to this particular entity, would -- would look like what sort of individual, corporation, other nonprofit?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Through you, Madam President to the Senator Frantz, the typical donor could be truly an individual, it could be a corporate entity, it could be whomever -- whatever is inspired to respond in a very serious circumstance which we find ourselves and our neighbors in.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you, Madam President.

You know, I find it - it's a noble cause. There's no question about it, but I'm just trying to figure out how this would all work going forward.

If you take another example, a pretty high profile one, of the United Nations, typically funded -- it's absolutely funded up until fairly recently by governments and, in particular, the United States government -- and we had an out of left field contribution by a gentleman, Ted Turner, of I think it was between 1 and 2 billion dollars to a governmental organization. But that's the only person that's ever given to the U.N. as far as I am concerned -- as far as I know and -- and I know they have other subsidiaries, UNICEF, and so on, that -- that are 501(c)(3)s that do receive contributions, but the actual body, itself, I don't think has received any of the private donations from anybody.

So I -- again -- well, let me ask another question, through you, Madam President. Have any other states tried to do this?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Through you, Madam President to Senator Frantz, to my knowledge, the structure that we have put in place is somewhat unique. I do believe other states have entities, but that they are identical and mimic what we are looking at before us I do not believe. I think this is very unique.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you, for that answer.

And through you, Madam President, again, I do find it an intriguing idea and possibly one that could work. I'm just -- I'm just worried about competition, Red Cross and AmeriCares, there's a whole slew of other ones that are pretty substantial here already in the state of Connecticut. And I'm curious as to what they would have to say, and I won't ask that question, if there was any testimony, but -- but in the testimony that you did receive in any public hearings that you had on it, were there people that came and spoke in favor of it and indicated that there would be an interest in financially supporting the entity if it goes into law?

Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Through you, Madam President to Senator Frantz, there was actually no one who spoke against this proposal. And those who did testify were very encouraged by it.

I think recognizing the fact that, perhaps, they would be collaborators and, perhaps, even -- see money being allocated to them to do some direct kind of service.

Also, once again, we found that in theory is so different than practice, and in practice when these kind of events happen, it is obviously a time of chaos of a lot of need going on, and something like this in place offers order and a process to support a lot of our local not-for-profits as a means also of having feet on the ground and quickly.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you.

And one final question, through you, Madam President, have you calculated what the -- what the threshold is at which this entity would be able to become self-sustaining and take off, gain some critical mass and become an entity that not only is capable of fundraising meaningful amounts of money but being able to -- and, you know, turn around and provide the kind of emergency services that you're -- that you're talking about?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Through you, Madam President to Senator Frantz, it is structured so that it is independent, completely. It has the authority to go and fundraise for its administration and ongoing costs so that it is in no way a fiscal note to the State of Connecticut.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Okay, thank you. Thank you for that answer.

So what I'm really trying to get at is, without pushing it too far, is -- is many of these different relief groups, if you will, need to get to a certain amount of core funding before they can actually get the institution up and running for fundraising purposes and then to fulfill their stated cause. And I'm just wondering if that that number was even brought up. There may not have been any discussion about that, I'm just curious about that.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Through you, Madam President to Senator Frantz, we did not establish such a threshold.

Through you, sir.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you --

THE CHAIR:

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

-- thank you, Madam President.

Thank you for those answers. And I'm still waiting for a text message from someone from the Red Cross, which will probably determine my vote. I think it's a noble idea and very interesting, and I want to thank you for taking the time to do this with the committee, to go through the process of coming up with the bill language and, hey, if it helps people, why not support it. Thank you.

Thank you Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you, Madam President.

I rise in somewhat of a quandary because I wanted to kind of research the bill a little bit so I -- I know it went through two of the committees that I serve on, and I voted one way in one committee and voted the other way in the other committee, so I was trying to figure out why I voted the way that I did, and I was

kind of going through the -- the bill analysis and it led me to a few questions, Madam President, I would like to ask the chair of the Public Safety Committee.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you.

Through you, Madam President, one of the things that I -- I found intriguing that -- it decides on lines 194 through 197 what an eligible incident is, and if I read this correctly, there's two different ways it could be declared -- considered an eligible incident for consideration. One is that a -- the town itself could say, well, that we consider this to be an eligible incident; or if the Governor requests it to be considered a eligible incident, then two thirds vote of the board that has been comprised considered. Am I correct in that reading of that?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Yes, through you, Madam President, yes. As I refer to those lines, I believe that you are, sir.

Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you.

And I thank the gentlewoman for her answer.

I think I know why I voted against it the first time because we have -- I think it's a noble ambition to create an account that we -- has been established that people can donate to that helps folks out in whatever emergency, whatever incident, there happens to be in and whether it was the incident that took place down in Newtown, December 14th, or whether it's hurricane Sandy that came in and ravaged our -- our shorefront line or any other natural disasters, so I could see that this may be an availability of funds or other services to provide those communities. But we don't have a start-up fund and I -- I read somewhere in the bill and I -- that once the board has convened, if the fund has insufficient amount of dollars, they can prorate those dollars, and my question would be, where would we be able to -- would that come out of the General Funds of the State of Connecticut or out of a bond because since it's through the treasurer's office? Through you, Madam President to Senator Hartley, if there are no funds available and the board has deemed that it is an appropriate allocation, the bill states that they can prorate that -- that money.

Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Through you, Madam President to Senator Witkos, and so in that instance, the board would perhaps go out and fundraise but this is completely independent and there is no state allocation to this fund.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you, Madam President.

Where -- how would -- the statute that's being debated here also allows the board to hire certain individuals whether they be fiscal agents, they say, an executive director and any other personnel that they deem necessary to carry out the duties of the CT CARE Board. And through your conversations, Senator Hartley, have you gotten an idea as to the direction of what would be the first action once the board is convened? Is -- would it be to hire staff or go out and begin fundraising?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Through you, Madam, I -- the way I read this, it looks to me that they will on the first order of business convene a board, and that board then, if they're at the time not responding to a particular incident and, perhaps, have not received indications of donations because typically when an event happens people look to see where they could donate and that was one of the benefits of this kind of an entity because it is an established entity, it does have oversight, it must have its books audited, it gives a sense of comfort to a donor that, in fact, their money is going to get to its intended place.

So it would be to convene this board and if, in fact, there was not at that time money being -- coming in by a donor or donors, then they, perhaps, would want to initiate a fundraising activity or solicitation process.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you.

And through you, Madam President, I want to go back to the fundraising and the actual pot of money, if you will, that you said would be kept separate from -- from the State of Connecticut. And I'm looking at section 6, and although the monies will be kept separate, there is, on line 334, it says the sums received by the fund will be counted for separately and apart from all the state monies. And then it says, and the full faith and credit of the State of Connecticut is pledged for their safekeeping.

And, through you, Madam President, does that speak to like a scarf account kind of where it's using the reserves of the State of Connecticut so if they default in their payment, then the State of Connecticut has pledged their full faith and credit to restore those funds?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Through you, Madam President to Senator Witkos, I do not read it as that way at all as a scarf, but simply that the money that is donated goes through the state treasurer and then to the fund; and in that sense, it is secure.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you, Madam President.

I want to thank Senator Hartley for that answer.

Adds a little more comfort here, but I guess I have an issue where each time there will be an incident that

the municipality believes "we believe this is an incident and we are allowed to call that as an eligible incident in the municipality," and then a committee will be convened with certain representatives depending on where the eligible incident occurs and part of that will be members of that community to serve on that board or that committee, if you will. And therein lies the problem, if we don't have a standardization as to what is an eligible incident and what is our procedure if it's going to be based on the specifics of that emergency at the time and where it took place. I think in some folk's mind, they're going to consider that because they're so close to it, an emergency, where others may say well, you know, that's a weather-related event, yeah, it's an emergency, that's what we have insurance for, let's work our way through it and go forward. Why should all of the money that people have donated to the State of Connecticut to the CT CARE Fund, be utilized for that purpose? And so I do have some concern that there's no guidelines that offer that, Madam President. It's -- it's -- all of the folks are gubernatorial appointees, with the exception of the folks that work in the DMHAS regions, they'll be part of it, and they're the ones that really have the expertise. And I think when we offer more of a collaborative board, I wish we weren't so -- I guess I wouldn't --

I wish we were not so vague in the language as we are because we're putting it in statute. I wish we had the board developed -- develop policies and guidelines on how the fund will be administered and what will be considered an eligible incident, not leave it up to either the municipality or two-thirds of the vote to the board because that -- that, I believe, leaves it wide open in the fact that they're allowed to appropriate funds when there are insufficient funds is very concerning to me.

And the way I read that -- that section that the State of Connecticut will provide its full faith and credit leaves me to believe that that's a scarf language that I've seen before in other bills that says if we don't pay, then the State of Connecticut's going to back it up and pay, so I do -- I do have some concerns.

Thank you for the time, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark?

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

I rise for a couple questions for the proponent of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

Senator Hartley, in your opening remarks, you mentioned December 14th and, of course, the horrific Sandy Hook tragedy. Can you reference that, yet, again, in regards to this bill?

Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Yes, through you, Madam President to Senator Kane, that was a for instance in showing that at that time in such horrific situation and, quite frankly, in such incredible chaos which rippled throughout the community at large. And I know, for example, it affected all of our social services in Waterbury, many of which, you, Senator Kane, are very, very acquainted with. And so there were many people coming forward, and there are to this day, who still want to help in

some way, large or small, and the truth is the not-for-profit in the immediate area were completely overwhelmed, overwhelmed with trying to put feet on the ground in an assistance manner and also overwhelmed in trying to be the recipient and the custodian of -- very well-intentioned donors.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

And thank you for -- for that outline. I guess my question -- or I'll have a couple questions in regards to it, though, but first, the -- wasn't the United Way put in charge of the monies from that -- from that tragedy, from that event?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Yes, through you, Madam President, to Senator Kane, I believe that the United Way was, perhaps, a point agency in that instance from that community.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

And in doing so -- well, let me ask this first, are you familiar with how the monies have been

disseminated to the families, if they have it all, any -- and I don't expect you to go into great detail, but I'm just wondering of the -- how the process has taken place in relation to the United Way and the families, if that has been a smooth transition, if it has been difficult, if they are still waiting, if monies have been processed -- I guess what I'm trying to understand is how the handling of that situation has taken place through the United Way?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Yes, through you, Madam President to Senator Kane, I couldn't speak to that, Senator. I know that everyone was trying to do their very best and so, perhaps, it was perfect but, perhaps, it wasn't, sir.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

I guess the reason for that question is -- is my belief would be that the United Way is someone that could handle a situation like that and is handling a situation like that. So I'm curious, I guess, for the need of a government entity or a government intervention in such an occurrence when we have private nonprofit providers set up already, like as Senator Frantz mentioned the Red Cross, and I talk about the United Way, I guess, you know, Senator Frantz actually asked if we are going to be competing with these organizations.

So my question to you, and I do understand the intent that -- and I think it is -- has great valor, and I

think it is honorable or admirable, certainly, but at the same time is the necessity of it when we have organizations, such as the United Way, already in place.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Through you, Madam President, and to you, Senator Kane, I think it's, perhaps, bears repeating since we did talk a bit about it before that the structure is such that any not-for-profit -- and in this instance you reference the United Way -- could end up being a collaborator and also a recipient. And so when agencies, such as the United Way, are tasked with many functions in an instance like this and in particularly when it is a catastrophe and a tragedy that there's an awful lot going on and so an agency, in all respects, would welcome the participation and in an instance the support that this would have.

So in no way is this structured to be competitive or preemptive to the not-for-profits which throughout this state have helped to make our communities the wonderful places that they are to live and, especially, in the greatest time of need function so well. It is, I think, a perfect collaboration in instances which would help to bring great relief in an efficient manner and in an effective way in coordination with resources that exist already and, at least to my knowledge, are welcoming this kind of a -- of an approach.

Thank you, Madam President.

Through you to Senator Kane.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

Then I -- well, then take -- please take me back then to the structure that you speak of and the collaboration that you speak of. How is this entity going to be structured first of all?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Through you, Madam Speaker to -- Madam President to Senator Kane, there is a board which is comprised of seven gubernatorial appointments, there is a designee or the OPM Secretary, there is the DESPP deputy commissioner or designee, there is a member from the Office of Victim Services and the Regional Emergency Planning Teams for the Homeland Security Division. We also have representation from the Connecticut Council for Philanthropic Giving, and then there are several nonvoting members. So the board is a very representative board and they will be in place to begin the effort of being prepared at the time of such emergencies.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

This board that you talk about is made up of what it seems like all government agencies or their designee. It doesn't sound to me -- and I may have missed something and if I did, please correct me -- that it involves the stakeholders so much as it does the, you said, the Governor's appointment, OPM, DESPP, it seemed like it was just another state agency or a

board made up of state officials; am I incorrect in that view?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Madam President, through you, to Senator Kane, there are appointees by the Connecticut Council for Philanthropic Giving, and it is very important, obviously, to have the members and representatives from the regional planning teams, those are community teams. And in that respect, it is a broad representation of people who will be going forward trying to make some decisions sometimes in some very difficult situations.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

I appreciate that answer. Who -- this regional planning team that you speak of, can -- who -- who are they?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Regional -- through you, Madam President to Senator Kane, there are regional planning Teams that are in place throughout the state of Connecticut through the auspices of the Division of Homeland Security. They

are the groups that are concerned with the evacuation situations, emergency. We utilize them to a great extent through these five declarations of natural disasters in the state recently where communities were in the dark and isolated and in many instances seniors in homes who, perhaps, may have been alone, and it is those groups that are mobilized momentarily in these times of disasters.

Through you, Madam President, through Senator Kane.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

Another government agency, I guess, it just sounds like.

You mentioned that they will be pulled together in time of -- if you didn't say catastrophe, I apologize, or maybe you said event or whatever the term -- at the time of this taking place. So is this something that will only come together during such events or is this something that will be together once a month, once every quarter, I mean, is this just a continuing process or something that takes place only at the time of these type of occurrences?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Yes.

Through you, Madam President, so the institution of the entity will be brought together and it may, depending upon the decisions that are arrived at collectively by the board members, make determinations about initiating fundraising. And of course, they are

coming together at times of natural disaster because that is their intended purpose to be there as the entity to support, to help be the recipient of donations, and also to have those donations delivered expediently in -- to those in need, be they through a not-for-profit, which you have referenced frequently, or to individual recipients.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

You mentioned fundraising. How is this organization going to be doing fundraising?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Through you, Madam President to Senator Kane, I -- it is one of the things that the entity could do. It is not spelled out and certainly this being a democratic process and board, it would be by virtue of the decision of the board as to how they proceed.

Through you, Madam.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

When you talk about the structure, and I do understand how the -- how the board will be made up, how does it

then work with the nonprofit organization, the organizations I spoke of earlier, how is it set up to work with the organizations that we spoke of, such as the United Way or Red Cross?

Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Through you, Madam President to Senator Kane, in making the decisions of how donations will be dispersed and applied, it would be theoretical that the board could decide to provide funds to, for instance, the United Way for the purposes of providing temporary shelter at the time of a -- a tornado, a hurricane, something of the like, sir.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

And in what way would they be collaborating with the organization?

Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Through you, Madam President to Senator Kane, the organization may become one of the designees to be the recipient of resources to help in a disaster, natural or otherwise.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

But isn't the United Way a recipient already? Don't they already do this? I mean, do they need a state agency to be a recipient of funding?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Through you, Madam President to Senator Kane, I would think that the United Way would be grateful to all opportunities to receive funding, in particularly, in times of disaster. I am very familiar with my local United Way, and they work very hard to bring the community together to build resources so that they could then be directed to those in the community of most need. And it is in that respect that the United Way may very well be or any other similar entity a recipient as identified through the CT CARE.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

But I guess what I'm trying to say is it's the same dollars. It -- when you say that the United Way would gladly be a recipient of these dollars from this organization, it's the same dollars. They're --

they're receiving the same funding from donors who participate in their already set-up organization and their already set-up process. So, I guess when I'm -- I'm still wrapping my brain around the necessity for this organization being set up when United Way is a collaborator. They are a recipient. They do fundraising. They are there in times of catastrophe. They do have a board. They do all these things that you're talking about. The United Way does it already. The Red Cross does this already.

Why are -- you know, it -- I still haven't heard a reason for us to create a -- an organization that will compete with what is already in the -- in the open market, if you will, for lack of a better word. And this is like FedEx and UPS versus the United States Postal Service. We know that the private market does it far better. I mean, you -- I can argue that all day long. United Postal Service is billions of dollars in debt, looking to close on Saturdays. And FedEx, as they say is running the tightest ship in the shipping business. They're doing all things right. In fact, they're making record -- record profits.

So, if the United Way is already set up and they're already doing these things, why the need for this? What are we creating? We're -- what was said is that, well, we will be a collaborator with the United Way. Okay. They can be a recipient for monies for the United Way. Okay. We can do fundraising. These are all things they're already doing.

The United Way, as Senator Hartley mentioned, is the conduit for the monies that are coming in on that horrific December 14th tragedy. They are there when there's a hurricane. They are there for social service needs. They are there providing background information and back-office help for all the small little private nonprofits that are located throughout the state of Connecticut.

The Red Cross, every time you see a fire on the news and it says a family was displaced, but the Red Cross was able to help that family find a new location to -- to -- for shelter.

We could talk about many, many organizations that are out there in Connecticut and throughout the country and throughout the world that are helping individuals in time of need. I mean, it's obvious, and it -- you and I give to them all the time. And I'm sure everyone in this building gives to the United Way. I'm sure there's a great number of businesses and we all know, Senator Hartley, having both be from the Greater Waterbury area, who handles these fundraising campaigns and who does the marketing and who does, you know, each year, have their employees participate in some type of program where they can have a deduction on their weekly payroll so they can give to the United Way, which in turn, flows down to all the little small little nonprofit organizations located in the -- in the Greater Waterbury community. This is being done. It's here. It's done. It's been done for years. The United Way, the Red Cross, all these organizations are doing this now.

What we're going to do, we're going to create our own agency and then say, well, you can be a recipient through us or you can be a collaborator through us. And we're going to put -- the governor is going to have seven people on this board, we're going to have DESPP have people on the board, we're going to have this agency of people on the board and we're going to control it. And then, yeah, United Way, you can come in and help us if you like.

But this is certainly a situation where did government is trying to do everything. And this is a situation where it is already being taken place, and I might add very well. They are doing a heck of a job at the United Way, a heck of a job at the Red Cross, and they are handling these situations that occur each and every day. And there's no reason for us to be creating a competing organization with these wonderful organizations that are in place.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark? Will you remark?

If not, would you like to -- Mr. Clerk, would you call for a roll call vote and the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.
Senators please return to the chamber. Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

If all members have voted? All members have voted, the machine will be closed.

Mr. Clerk, will you call a tally please.

THE CLERK:

House Bill 6374

Total Number Voting	34
Those voting Yea	21
Those voting Nay	13
Those absent and not voting	2

THE CHAIR:

The bill passes.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page 21, Calendar 153, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 928, AN ACT CONCERNING PRECIOUS METALS OR STONES DEALERS, it's as amended, and it's a favorable report of the Committee on Public Safety and Security.

(Senator Duff of the 25th in the Chair.)

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**PUBLIC
SAFETY AND
SECURITY
PART 2
378 - 749**

2013

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PUBLIC SAFETY AND
SECURITY COMMITTEE

February 21, 2013
10:00 A.M.

CHAIRMEN: Senator Hartley
Representative Dargan

MEMBERS PRESENT:
SENATORS: Hartley, Osten, Witkos

REPRESENTATIVES: Bacchiochi, Boukus,
Clemons, D'Amelio,
Esposito, Giegler,
Hampton, Hwang, Jutila,
Kupchick, Mikutel,
Nicastro, Orange, Rovero,
Verrengia, Yaccarino,
Zupkus

REP. DARGAN: Good morning, everyone. Like to get the public hearing going. Unfortunately as you can see, some Legislators don't understand the concept of time. So, with that in mind, shame on them.

So, what we'll do is the first hour will be for Legislators, agencies, and the municipal officials, and then the hour after that we will take testimony from the public.

So, with that, the first speaker is, is it Greg Bradner, from the insurance department. Good morning.

MIKE LETTIERI: Good morning, Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan, and distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Governor's Bill 6374, An Act Concerning Long-term Disaster Relief and Recovery. Mike Lettieri with the Department of Economic and Community Development, Co-Chair of

the state's Long-term Recovery Committee, and with me is my fellow Co-Chair George Bradner from the Department of Insurance. Our task force is charged with identifying and coordinating resources to help Connecticut's communities become more resilient and recover more quickly from catastrophes.

The Governor has identified this mission as essential in moving the State towards greater resiliency. As a key component is collaboration among State and Federal agencies, local government, the business community, and nonprofit partners. Our task force is an example of this approach as our members represent all of those sectors.

While one function of our task force is to help communities identify their risks and adapt mitigation strategies to minimize damage, we all realize that some catastrophic damage can and will occur. The last two years have been a testament to that. Beginning with the record winter of 2010 and '11, storm Irene, October's Nor'easter, Superstorm Sandy, and most recently the early February blizzard. The sooner our citizens and businesses can put their lives and livelihoods back together, the sooner the State can return to normal. It's good for our quality of life and great for the economy. The Governor clearly understands this and his proposal to create the Connecticut CARE Fund will go a long way in providing much needed assistance for recovery in cases not covered by insurance or Federal aid.

We believe this fund is a critical step in resiliency and has many benefits. Not all catastrophic events qualify for presidential or emergency declarations, and in recent years we've seen flooding in Naugatuck and a tornado in

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SECURITY COMMITTEE

February 21, 2013
10:00 A.M.

Bridgeport. They were disruptive, destructive, and costly to those locally affected, but not considered a Federal disaster and Federal funds were not made available.

In the future, this fund could provide a way to assist in the recovery effort of those individuals that are affected, and it will allow for individuals and others who want to assist through donations by allowing them to contribute towards specific events. Insurance money can be a substantial and important resource for recovery. As a point of context, the insurance industry paid more than \$230 million for over 60,000 claims in Connecticut as a result of Irene in 2011. The industry has already paid nearly 300 million for Superstorm Sandy damages in the State. The total FEMA assistance for both Irene and Sandy is around 21 million to date for Connecticut residents. Yet despite these resources, there are people who still fall through the cracks, and for those individuals who have no insurance or are underinsured or have uninsurable damage and do not qualify for FEMA aid, the Governor's fund can make a real difference in their lives.

We also think it's important to note that not all money donated to the fund will stay -- it's important to note that all money donated to the fund will stay in Connecticut to help our residents. We are hopeful that you will support this proposal, and in doing so, will give our state one more important tool for recovery and resiliency.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in favor of this proposal.

REP. DARGAN: Thank you. Questions from Committee members?

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SENATOR HARTLEY: So, good morning.

MIKE LETTIERI: Good morning.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Is it George?

MIKE LETTIERI: Mike Lettieri with the Department of
Economic and Community Development.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Oh.

MIKE LETTIERI: George Bradner, fellow Co-Chair, is
with me.

GEORGE BRADNER: And I'm George Bradner.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Oh, okay. So, it is George and it
is Mike. Okay, thank you.

So, did you submit written testimony to us?

MIKE LETTIERI: We did, yes.

SENATOR HARTLEY: You did, okay. So, help me out. I
understand that in the last two storms we were
not able to avail ourselves to some assistance
because we were not prepared with such a
mechanism by which to receive contribution?

MIKE LETTIERI: This fund would provide a mechanism to
meet unmet needs that aren't covered by insurance
and FEMA assistance. So, this would allow for
ordinary individuals, businesses, foundations to
contribute to a fund.

SENATOR HARTLEY: So, now, I understood some
communications in reference to this proposal that
in the last declarations that somehow we missed
out on some kind of assistance because we were
not equipped to receive money in this manner.

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MIKE LETTIERI: That I'm not --

SENATOR HARTLEY: You're unaware of that?

MIKE LETTIERI: I'm not aware of that.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Okay, that's -- just wanted to put that out there. Okay, thank you.

REP. DARGAN: Further questions from Committee members?

Thank you very much. So, that's George and Mike, okay.

So, next presenter is Teresa Younger.

TERESA YOUNGER: Good morning, Representative Dargan and Senator Hartley and members of the Committee. My name is Theresa Younger and I'm the Executive Director of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women. This may be the shortest testimony I provide before you ever.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Probably the most well received.

TERESA YOUNGER: Okay, great. Then I will get right to it. Today we are here to testify in support of Senate Bill 834, An Act Concerning Trafficking in Persons Council.

SB 856

In 2004, the PCS -- since 2004, the PCSW has been convening the Trafficking in Persons Council. The establishment of that Council meant that we were responsible for making recommendations that resulted in the establishment of criminal penalties and civil remedies, victim-friendly curriculum for training providers, State agencies, and law enforcement officials, and for funding, housing, and public awareness and

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Commissioner Bill Shea followed by David McGuire. I skipped over David, so, I apologize for that. So, Commissioner?

WILLIAM SHEA: Good afternoon, Representative Dargan, Senator Hartley, and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee. I am William Shea, the Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection with jurisdiction over the division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and I am testifying today in support of Governor's Bill Number 6374, an act concerning the coordinated long-term disaster relief and recovery. This bill would establish the Connecticut Coordinated Assistance and Recovery Endowment, or Connecticut CARE Fund, an independent foundation created to accept and administer donations from private sources to assist in meeting individual and/or municipal needs that are left unmet when Federal, State, and other resources have been exhausted.

Connecticut's residents have experienced five natural disasters in the last two years as well as the shooting at Sandy Hook. For each of the five natural disasters, Governor Malloy requested and received a presidential declaration which enabled cities and towns and in some cases individuals to receive FEMA assistance. While this Federal disaster aid is certainly welcome, it often does not allow the recipient to return to a pre-disaster financial condition.

There may also be emergency events that have a drastic effect on a community but do not meet FEMA thresholds for assistance. An example of just such an incident is the tornado that devastated a section of Bridgeport on June 24, 2010. Despite our efforts, we were unable to secure a FEMA disaster declaration. Nonetheless, at least 55,000 people were without power in the

summer heat for up to 10 days and dozens were injured. The majority of the affected community members were renters without insurance, many lost possessions, and fifty families were left temporarily homeless. A fund such as the Connecticut CARE Fund would provide valuable assistance to such people affected by disasters by providing a mechanism for private donations to be collected and distributed in an organized and collaborative manner. The Connecticut CARE Fund will also give Connecticut a vehicle for participating in charity events like the recent Sandy concert at Madison square garden, in which a mechanism such as Connecticut CARE may have made it easier for Connecticut to obtain additional benefits for Connecticut residents as well as municipalities.

With the support of Governor Malloy, DEMHS has created a Long Term Recovery Working Group that brings together Federal, State, and local as well as private sector partners to coordinate long-term recovery from disaster. This Connecticut CARE legislation adds a significant piece in that recovery process by establishing a fiscally independent framework that will create objective guidelines and protocols to be set into motion once FEMA disaster assistance and other avenues of aid have been exhausted.

It is particularly important to note that proposed board of the Connecticut CARE Fund includes the local or the five local chairs of the DEMHS regional emergency planning teams, or REPTs, as well as other State, local, and private sector representatives. Also, the Fund's distribution committee will include the DEMHS regional coordinator for the region affected, as well as the chair of the DEMHS REPT for that region and the CEOs of the municipalities affected. The statutory mission of DEMHS is to

provide an integrated and coordinated program of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. This legislation recognizes the importance of collaboration while strengthening the resilience of the state and its residents.

Pending your questions, that concludes my testimony.

REP. DARGAN: Thank you, Commissioner.

Is there any questions? No questions?

Thank you very much.

WILLIAM SHEA: Thank you.

REP. DARGAN: David McGuire.

DAVID MCGUIRE: Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan, and distinguished members of this Committee, I'm David McGuire, a staff attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut. I'm here today to testify in favor of House Bill 6014, An Act Concerning the Safe Use of Electronic Defense Weapons.

I'd like to take this opportunity to commend the Committee for taking up this important legislation. Over the past several years Tasers have taken hold in the State and we have learned a great deal about the advantages and dangers they present. We discovered in recent years that Tasers can cause fatal heart attacks. We've identified 11 people in Connecticut that have died after being stunned by Tasers. Amnesty International has counted over 500 Taser-related deaths in the United States between 2001 and 2012.

Through FOIA requests at our office in

I've come to the realization that, you know, we try to work a more collaborative way to share information and to make the residents of those communities more safer. And, so, I don't really see that there should be much opposition to what the two Tribes are trying to do as long as it's, you know, worked out as what I said, between the local, State, Federal and Native American Tribe.

So, thank you very much for your service to your respective communities. And with that, since there's no other questions, thank you very much.

A VOICE: Thank you.

REP. DARGAN: Next up is responder speakers, is it Chief Mike Spera? Followed by Representative Butler.

MICHAEL SPERA: Good afternoon, Representative Dargan, Senator Hartley, and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee. My name is Michael Spera and I am honored to be the Chief of Police and Emergency Management director for the town of Old Saybrook and the vice-president of the Connecticut Emergency Management Association.

The Connecticut Emergency Management Association, as you know, represents the interests of each municipal Emergency Management director in the State of Connecticut. Emergency Management directors are responsible for the creation and maintenance of emergency operation plans and contingency planning in their respective communities. They are true partners in public safety and play a vital role on any local, regional, State public safety leadership team.

I am here today to provide testimony in support of House Bill number 6374, An Act Concerning Coordinated Long-Term Disaster Relief and

Recovery. As you are aware, this bill would establish an endowment fund to provide a mechanism to collect and distribute private donations to meet municipal and individual needs when other funding sources, such as FEMA disaster aid, have been exhausted.

Despite the cause of the disaster, the title "victim" is shared by too many. Victims are individuals, families, businesses, private nonprofit organizations, school districts, and municipalities. This bill allows those who were not affected by the disaster to help those who were by establishing a framework to do so. A framework that has established fiscal management controls, local leadership oversight, and streamlines the donation and distribution process when time truly matters.

The Connecticut Emergency Management Association is particularly pleased to see the role that municipalities and the Emergency Management community play in the proposed legislation. The proposed board of the Connecticut CARE Fund includes the five local chairs of the DEMHS regional emergency planning teams, as well as the executive directors of CCM and COST, and the State Emergency Management Director. Also, the fund's proposed distribution Committee to be activated when a disaster has been designated by the fund will include the DEMHS regional coordinator for the region affected, as well as the Chair of the DEMHS regional emergency planning team, and the Chief Elected Officials of the municipalities affected.

The Connecticut CARE Fund will enhance the assistance and support available to those negatively impacted by disaster. It is a positive step, fostered by State Government, to aid those in need of additional support in order

to recover from disaster. The Connecticut Emergency Management Association strongly supports this bill.

REP. DARGAN: Thank you, Chief. Thank you for being here.

Senator.

SENATOR OSTEN: Thank you. Thank you for coming.

I was wondering, what sort of things do you think would be covered under, under donations such as this?

MICHAEL SPERA: I think the point of this is, is we don't know. Skies could be the limit. We have seen several disasters in our state, both natural disasters and unfortunate man-made occurrences where people who were not affected by the disaster want to make sizeable contributions, but there's no mechanism or no organization to do so. So, as we saw in the tragedy at Sandy Hook, it took people in the community to form nonprofit associations, organizations, go through all that governmental paperwork just to be able to receive some monetary donations.

This bill would allow Government to do what Government should be doing, which is create a framework to help their citizens help themselves.

SENATOR OSTEN: So, let's use Newtown as an example. There have been sizeable donations made to a number of nonprofits. And some of the people who were either first responders or responders or people who -- workers who happened to be there suffering from a myriad of issues, having experienced lost wages, are not able to access any of those funds right now because some of those funds will be going to the parents or the

families left behind of the children or other victims. So, I'm just curious how this would work in a situation such as this where you have a lot of different victims that come out of a sizeable tragedy such as Newtown.

MICHAEL SPERA: Well, the legislation currently proposed allows for the framework for people to make sizeable donations.

SENATOR OSTEN: Right.

MICHAEL SPERA: For example, if maybe a famous actor or actress saw what was going on and said, we want to write a \$5 million check today, "We saw just what happened on the news. Where is it going?"

SENATOR OSTEN: Right.

MICHAEL SPERA: There is sometimes not organizations to receive that. This would create the framework for that donation to be earmarked, sent to State Government, held in our fiscal controls, and allowed this local leadership team as discussed during my testimony and in the proposed bill to make those important decisions.

SENATOR OSTEN: And if the local leadership was also impacted by the disaster, emotionally -- not just financially, but emotionally, who would take the place of that particular local leadership? In full awareness, I'm a First Selectman in the town, too.

MICHAEL SPERA: I believe there's enough check and balance on that committee. I think as the Chief Elected Official of your community or the Chief Elected Official of any community needs to have some say, and you certainly have the authority to delegate your authority to put someone else on

that board if you were personally affected and couldn't assume that role.

SENATOR OSTEN: So, and then going on to a natural disaster and since 2010, a variety of, of places in Connecticut have experienced the necessity and have been awarded disaster funds through FEMA as a result of blizzards and floods and hurricanes. I can't even begin to say how many times I filled out paperwork for FEMA. Where would you envision that -- those funds -- what would you envision them being spent on in those particular circumstances?

MICHAEL SPERA: I think every community is unique and that's why we're happy to see the local leadership part of this oversight committee. As you know that the FEMA reimbursement doesn't make a community whole and sometimes does not -- is not able to help individuals or individual businesses or nonprofits or school districts as much as it helps a municipality. But we certainly know that FEMA reimbursement doesn't fully cover every single thing a municipality has to pay out or has been damaged during a storm.

So, we envision this pocket of money, should donations come in, to be allocated to help those parts that are not funded by either Federal or State monies following a disaster.

SENATOR OSTEN: So, in the case of a situation such as a church, lost windows in one of the wind storms that we've had, would there be a bar from a religious organization participating in the funds of -- of funds such as these?

MICHAEL SPERA: Absolutely not. It would be up to -- I think the current legislation calls for the fund, the oversight of the fund to declare something that was actually a disaster, which

might be a lower bar. In fact, it should be. As we know in the certain blizzard, the bar is extremely high --

SENATOR OSTEN: Right.

MICHAEL SPERA: -- for the State or municipalities to receive any funding for snow-related events. Certainly a higher bar than our normal natural disasters, hurricanes and tropical storms.

SENATOR OSTEN: Right.,

MICHAEL SPERA: So, the fund, it would be paramount to help organizations like nonprofit organizations, religious organizations that have suffered damage, don't have the mechanism to do that. They can apply for funding through this, and literally their local leadership is what's deciding it.

SENATOR OSTEN: Okay, thank you.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL SPERA: Thank you.

REP. DARGAN: Thank you. Further questions? Hearing none, thank you very much.

MICHAEL SPERA: Thank you, sir.

REP. DARGAN: Representative Larry Butler.

REP. BUTLER: Good afternoon -- skew me. Good afternoon, Co-Chair Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan, and members of the Public Safety Committee. I am here today to ask for your consideration for House Bill 6014, An Act Concerning the Safe Use of Electronic Defense Weapons. But before I elaborate on that, I

SB834

disconnect the battery and it will last for up to 10 years as standard.

So, this helps alleviate the concern of an occupant or a homeowner either not replacing the batteries or simply disconnecting the batteries. So, it's not hard wired either. That's another product as well that we have. Some houses have that. Older homes won't necessarily have the ability to have that hard wire retrofit. So, this helps to reduce that problem.

REP. GIEGLER: Now, are you the only company that has this smoke detector, or are there other companies that offer this same product?

NEIL BEUP: There are other companies that offer a similar product.

REP. DARGAN: Further questions? Seeing none, well, thank you very much.

NEIL BEUP: Thank you.

REP. DARGAN: Our Commissioner of consumer protection, William Rubenstein.

WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan, Representative Giegler, members of the Public Safety and Security Committee. I'm Bill Rubenstein, the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, and I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today in support of Governor Malloy's proposal House Bill 6374, An Act Concerning Coordinated Long-Term Disaster Relief and Recovery.

This bill would establish the Connecticut Coordinated Assistance and Recovery Endowment fund, to be known as the Connecticut CARE Fund. The fund is proposed for the purpose of accepting

and administering donations from private sources to assist in meeting the financial needs of both individuals and communities that have experienced disasters from which they are recovering and where other source he he of financial support, such as Federal and State monies, are not adequate.

Under this proposal, the fund would be administered by a governing board of individuals that have expertise in administering such funds, or possess other skills such as in the area of nonprofit corporations, public safety, Emergency Services, and victim advocacy. Additionally, State agency with expertise in key areas will serve the governing body in an advisory capacity. Among those advisory agencies is the Department of Consumer Protection.

Now, as you know, the Department of Consumer Protection has oversight of public charities. This proposal responds to a pressing need that is apparent after every disaster and tragedy and has come into sharp focus again most recently in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Sandy and the Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings. Connecticut citizens, and indeed citizens throughout the country, have an overwhelming desire to help. And that's not just individuals, but corporations as well who are interested in helping and in large ways. And the way that most are able to help is to provide money to supplement the resources that otherwise would be available.

What we know, however, is that many of these donors are looking for organizations that they can be assured will use the money for its intended purpose. After each disaster, the Department of Consumer Protection advises donors on how to be wise donors and how to evaluate how

an organization might spend their money. We consistently counsel donors to look for well known funds that have clear missions dedicated to disaster assistance, that have a capable leadership structure and that use best practices for distributing funds for their intended purpose. Where that information is not fully transparent, -- dollars contributed could be lost to less than trustworthy organizations, or even blatant scam artists; or dollars could simply fail to be contributed at all by wary donors.

The Connecticut Care Fund is designed to be one of the funds that donors can turn to and be safe and secure that there are adequate safeguards and protocols in place to assure that donations are spent to address - in a targeted way - the very disaster or tragedy that prompted the generous and compassionate donations. The creation of the Connecticut Care Fund can be seen as a win win situation. Donors would feel comfortable knowing that their dollars are going to a statutorily defined fund with a dedicated mission and strong leadership; and the administration of those dollars by the governing board would get the proceeds from the fund to those in need as expeditiously as possible.

I am honored therefore to add my testimony in support of this very important proposal and I ask for your support for the bill.

REP. DARGAN: Thank you very much for your testimony, Commissioner. Questions from anyone?

REP. HARTLEY: Thank you Commissioner for being with us

and this is indeed I think a very worthwhile proposal especially in view of all that we have been through with these back to back declarations and then of course most recently Sandy Hook. So

what about the administration on this? Who does it? Who absorbs it?

WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: This is set up to be a -- a -- a -- a

self sustaining fund so the administration costs I assume as I look at the bill would be -- come out of the fund but largely these are volunteers as -- and so we have a -- you know, bo-- you know, a governing board that is setup as a volunteer board. We have a distribution committee set up as a volunteer board, so administrative costs actually should be minimal.

REP. HARTLEY: Okay, so maybe we need some language to define that they are in fact minimal as we go on, you know sometimes how things have a life of their own and then the other thing it -- so would we define this as being quazipublic?

WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: I, I believe --

REP. HARTLEY: What would it be?

WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: I --

REP. HARTLEY: --What would this--

WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: I, I believe it -- it is defined --

as these are defined in the bill as not state agencies, so they are -- I am trying to find the exact provision in the bill -- there is a provision of the bill that -- that sets this apart from a -- a state agency but I'm not sure what it's technical term would -- whether it would be considered quasi-public or not -- If I can find it. (inaudible)

REP. HARTLEY: That's why I asked because I do not -- could not figure that out.

WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: I -- I'll - I'll find the appropriate reference for you --

REP. HARTLEY: Uh huh.

WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: -- And then get it to you.

REP. HARTLEY: And then my other question is, so the money comes in and what happens? It goes into a lock box?

RUBENSTEIN: That's correct it goes into a separate fund.

REP HARTLEY: Uh huh, and then this entity -- goes toward deliberative process and makes -- its decisions about distribution. Does it -- is there any requirements that it must distribute the -- the money, put it -- the -- inventorying it or --

WILLIAM REBEUSTEIN: A -- as -- as with all charitable donations funds have to be used --

REP. HARTLEY: Must be.

WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: -- for the purpose for -- for which they are donated. So when they donate it for a specific disaster they must be used to (inaudible) that specific disaster and there is a distribution committee made up of -- of local interests which are going to assure that that happens in -- in a way that meets the needs of the particular community. It -- that there is a governing board but for each particular disaster there is a separate distribution committee that is set up -- made up of -- of local members.

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REP. HARTLEY: But it is only one distribution, it is only

one committee which decides all of the distribution but it has --

WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: E -- Each --

REP. HARTLEY: -- across the board reputation

WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: -- Pardon?

REP. HARTLEY: -- it's one committee each --

WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: There -- there is one governing board --

REP. HARTLEY: Right, one governing board.

WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: -- that oversees the entire fund and

the operation fund but for each eligible in-- incident for which funds are donated there is a separate distribution committee that is set up to address that particular -- distribution with regard to that particular eligible incident.

REP. HARTLEY: Separate distribution is a subset of the

larger board --

WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: It is -- it is a -

it is a separate committee that has a separate membership that -- that is defined in the statute as to who will be on the distribution committee so there is some overlap between the governing board members and the distribution committee but they are not entirely congruent.

REP. HARTLEY: Okay thank you very much commissioner and

your presence on this board I think is very important. Thank you

REP. DARGAN: Further questions from the committee? Representative Giegler.

REP. GIEGLER: -- Thank you very much, thank you very much Commissioner. I think I am just a little bit confused, like I see here in the -- that there's a governing board --

WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: Right.

REP. GIEGLER: -- and then you are saying that there is a
-- separate distribution committee for each incident
--

WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: Correct, yes.

REP. GIEGLER: -- but you alluded to -- you stated before that there are volunteers that may be selected for the -- can you state that?

WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: Well they --

REP. GIEGLER: that there could be volunteers --

WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: Well -- these -- these -- these people serving on these boards are volunteering their time and so -- so the -- the -- chief -- chief executive officer -- municipalities are entitled to participate in the distribution committee -- that there is a chair person, regional emergency response teams, residents -- there -- there are not more than two residents of an effective municipality that serves on the distribution committee and I have pointed to -- section four -- section four -- Where is this number? Four -- four -- subpart G -- which sets out the membership and distribution committee

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that is set up for retail eligible incident. So -- so these are -- are people by virtue by either their position or -- or otherwise determined by the governing board.

REP. GIEGLER: And are these distribution committees then -- they would make the recommendations as to -- who the -- who should receive the money?

WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: Yes, they -- they --

REP. GIEGLER: --and how much?

WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: -- they assist the board; they assist the governing board in determining how the distribution was made. So the idea is that you can have local input into the decision making function about how to distribute funds that are contributed for disaster that part -- that -- that affect -- affects a particular area.

REP GIEGLER: And then the governing board would be who would disperse the actual funds?

WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: That's correct.

REP. GIEGLER: Because I was just wondering about the oversight of the--

WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: Okay.

REP. GIEGLER: --the funds.

WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: So -- So, the oversight is done by the governing board which is in section four: subsection four D. It creates the governing board.

REP. GIEGLER: Thank you. It will give us something to look over. I mean, it is -- it is Sandy Hook is a perfect example of the number of different

foundations and funds that have come forward and I think this is really a good way to kind of streamline those kinds of

WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: Sandy Hook --

REP. GIEGLER: (inaudible)

WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: -- it is a good example, in fact I mean - that -- that -- that is one where we can see very clearly that people felt not only the desire to want to do something but a need, felt the need to do it from all over the world. Millions of dollars poured in -- in to various entities in - in - the Newtown area -- that were not equipped to deal with this kind of distribution. So United Fund -- United Way for example, as I read the paper, you know an excess of nine million dollars there -- their mission and their mechanisms are not set up to distribute that. They have now created a separate entity that -- that -- that it tries to do some of the things that -- that -- that the Connecticut Care Fund would do if it had been in place. So -- so rather than put that burden on existing organizations are not really ready and equipped to deal with it, we would have a place where these funds could go into that -- that is set up with very strong leadership governing board with local (inaudible) so that -- I mean, that's the concept.

REP. GIEGLER: Now since there would be different distribution committees, say it was a single incident that happened and there was quite a bit of money that came in is there a mechanism in place that there could be a redistribution of funds from one event to another event under the same - - Connecticut Care Foundation? Say for instance, you had, you know a hurricane and you have used up all the -- all the requests that

have come forward for funds and you have a balance left and that given fund you would be able to transfer it to another incident that may be forthcoming.

WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: It -- it should be governed by the -- the same set of rules that govern --

REP. GIEGLER: Right.

WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: --charitable donations, you know it -- in general -- and that is that funds are supposed to be used for the purpose for which the donor wanted --

REP. GIEGLER: Yes, okay.

WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: --them to be used. There are times in which that cannot happen by virtue of -- of -- of the purpose for which donation no longer existing. There --there -- there are mechanisms to allow you to do what is in the law called side prey, that is approximate the donor's intent and move the funds for a different purpose but it would be the same procedures that you would use for any other charitable donation.

REP. DARGAN: Further questions? Thank you very much for your testimony.

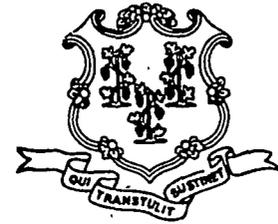
WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: Thank you.

REP. DARGAN: Next presenter is Chief Michael Crowley.

MICHAEL CROWLEY: Good afternoon, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to speak before the committee today.

HB 6373

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION



Testimony of William M. Rubenstein
Commissioner of Consumer Protection

Public Safety and Security Committee Public Hearing
February 21, 2013

Governor's Bill HB 6374 "An Act Concerning Coordinated Long-Term Disaster Relief and Recovery"

Sen. Hartley, Rep. Dargan, Sen. Guglielmo, Rep. Giegler and honorable members of the Public Safety and Security Committee. I am William M. Rubenstein, Commissioner of Consumer Protection. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor Malloy's proposal HB 6374, "An Act Concerning Coordinated Long-Term Disaster Relief and Recovery."

This bill would establish the Connecticut Coordinated Assistance and Recovery Endowment Fund, to be known as the CT CARE fund. The fund is proposed for the purpose of accepting and administering donations from private sources to assist in meeting the financial needs of individuals or communities that have experienced disasters from which they are recovering and where other sources of financial support, such as federal and state monies, are not adequate.

Under this proposal, the fund would be administered by a governing board of individuals that have expertise in administering such funds, or possess other skills such as in the area of non-profit corporations, public safety, emergency services, and victim advocacy. Additionally, state agencies with expertise in key areas will also serve the governing body in an advisory capacity. Among those advisory agencies is the Department of Consumer Protection.

As you are aware, the Department of Consumer Protection has oversight of public charities. This proposal responds to a pressing need that is apparent after every disaster and tragedy and has come into sharp focus again most recently in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Sandy and the Sandy Hook elementary school shootings. Connecticut citizens, and indeed citizens throughout the country, have an overwhelming desire to help. The way that most are able to help is to provide money to supplement the resources that otherwise would be available. What we know, however, is that many of these donors are looking for organizations that they can be assured will use the money for its intended purpose. After each disaster, the Department of Consumer Protection advises donors on how to be wise donors and evaluate how an organization might spend their money. We consistently counsel donors to look for well-known funds that have clear missions dedicated to disaster assistance, that have a capable leadership structure and that use best practices for distributing funds for their intended purpose. Where that information is not fully transparent, dollars contributed could be lost to less than trustworthy organizations, or even blatant scam artists; or dollars could simply fail to be contributed at all by wary donors.

The CT CARE Fund is designed to be one of the funds that donors can turn to and be safe and secure that there are adequate safeguards and protocols in place to assure that donations are spent to address, in a targeted way, the very disaster or tragedy that prompted the generous and compassionate donations. The creation of the CT CARE fund can be seen as a win-win situation. Donors would feel comfortable knowing that their dollars are going to a statutorily defined fund with a dedicated mission and strong leadership; and the administration of those dollars by the governing board would get the proceeds from the fund to those in need as expeditiously as possible.

I am honored to add my testimony in support of this very important proposal and ask for your support of the bill.



CCM 2013 Testimony

900 CHAPEL STREET, 9th FLOOR, NEW HAVEN, CT 06510-2807 PHONE (203) 498-3000 FAX (203) 562-6314

Your source for local government management information www.ccm-ct.org

PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE

February 20, 2013

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 92% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

HB 6374 AN ACT CONCERNING COORDINATED LONG-TERM DISASTER RELIEF AND RECOVERY

This proposal would create the Connecticut Coordinated Assistance and Recovery Endowment (CT CARE) Fund for victims of disasters and other emergencies. As proposed, the CT CARE Fund would establish several separate accounts restricted to each emergency, as well as an endowment for operations and sustainability. In addition, it would create an infrastructure to receive private donations in response to an emergency or disaster, report on such donations, and allocate funding in accordance with the intent of the donors.

HB 6347 would establish a governing board, comprised of selective voting members from DEMHS and victims services – and would include the CEO of CCM as an advisory, non-voting member. For each declared incident, a distribution committee would be established and include the local CEOs of the affected area. As proposed, the distributed funds would provide relief to both individuals and municipalities.

CCM supports HB 6374 as an efficient and effective means of pinpointing assistance to overwhelmed communities and their families. With an unprecedented five declared state of emergencies in the past two years, it is not secret that towns and cities on the frontlines of disasters need more assistance – and are steadfast in working with state partners to better preparing, responding and recovering from all hazards.

CCM urges the Committee to **favorably report HB 6374.**

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If you have any questions, please contact Mike Muszynski, Legislative Associate of CCM via email mmuszynski@ccm-ct.org or via phone (203) 500-7556.

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Joseph R. Sastre
President
Town of Groton

Michael A. Spera
Vice President
Town of Old Saybrook

Daniel M. Dubé
Treasurer
Town of East Hartford

Joel P. Severance
Secretary
Town of Chester

**Connecticut General Assembly - Public Safety and Security Committee
Public Hearing, February 21, 2013**

House Bill No. 6374,

An Act Concerning Coordinated Long-Term Disaster Relief and Recovery

Testimony of:

Michael A. Spera

Chief of Police and Emergency Management Director

Town of Old Saybrook

And

Vice President, Connecticut Emergency Management Association

Good morning. Representative Dargan, Senator Hartley, and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee; my name is Michael Spera and I am honored to be the Chief of Police and Emergency Management Director for the Town of Old Saybrook and Vice President of the Connecticut Emergency Management Association.

The Connecticut Emergency Management Association represents the interests of each municipal emergency management director in the State of Connecticut. Emergency Management Directors are responsible for the creation and maintenance of emergency operations plans and contingency planning in their respective communities. They are true partners in public safety and play a vital role on any local, regional, or state public safety leadership team.

I am here today to provide testimony in support of House Bill Number 6374, An Act Concerning Coordinated Long-Term Disaster Relief and Recovery. As you are aware, this bill would establish an endowment fund to provide a mechanism to collect and distribute private donations to meet municipal and individual needs when other funding sources, such as FEMA disaster aid, have been exhausted.

Despite the cause of the disaster the title of "victim" is shared by too many. Victims are individuals, families, businesses, private nonprofit organizations, school districts, and municipalities. This bill allows those who were not affected by disaster to help those who were by establishing a framework to do so. A framework that has established fiscal management controls, local leadership oversight, and streamlines the donation and distribution process when time truly matters.

The Connecticut Emergency Management Association is particularly pleased to see the role that municipalities and the emergency management community play in the proposed legislation. The proposed board of the CT CARE Fund includes the five local chairs of the DEMHS regional emergency planning teams (or REPTs), as well as the executive directors of CCM and COST and the State Emergency Management Director. Also, the Fund's proposed distribution committee, to be activated when a disaster has been designated by the Fund, will include the DEMHS regional coordinator for the region affected, as well as the chair of the DEMHS REPT, and the Chief Elected Officials of the municipalities affected.

The CT CARE Fund will enhance the assistance and support available to those negatively impacted by disaster. It is a positive step, fostered by State Government, to aid those in need of additional support in order to recover from disaster. The Connecticut Emergency Management Association strongly supports HB 6374.

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STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES & PUBLIC PROTECTION
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY



Connecticut General Assembly Public Safety and Security Committee
Public Hearing, February 21, 2013
Governor's Bill No. 6374, An Act Concerning Coordinated Long-Term Disaster Relief and Recovery

Testimony of Deputy Commissioner William P. Shea
Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection

Good morning, Representative Dargan, Senator Hartley, and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee. I am William P. Shea, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Emergency Service and Public Protection (or DESPP), with jurisdiction over the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (or DEMHS) and I am testifying in support of Governor's Bill Number 6374, An Act Concerning Coordinated Long-Term Disaster Relief and Recovery. This bill would establish the Connecticut Coordinated Assistance and Recovery Endowment, or CT CARE, Fund, an independent foundation created to accept and administer donations from private sources to assist in meeting individual and/or municipal needs that are left unmet when federal, state and other resources have been exhausted.

Connecticut's residents have experienced five natural disasters in the last two years, as well as the Sandy Hook shooting. For each of the five natural disasters, Governor Malloy has requested and received a Presidential declaration that enabled cities and towns, and in some cases, individuals, to receive FEMA disaster assistance. While this federal disaster aid is certainly welcome, it often does not allow the recipient to return to pre-disaster financial condition.

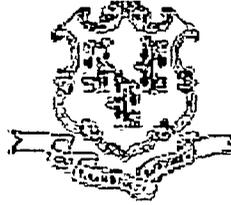
There may also be emergency events that have a drastic effect on a community but do not meet FEMA thresholds for assistance. An example of such an incident is the tornado that devastated a section of Bridgeport on June 24, 2010. Despite our efforts, we were unable to secure a FEMA disaster declaration. Nonetheless, at least 55,000 people were without power in the summer heat for up to 10 days and dozens were injured. The majority of the affected community members were renters without insurance, many lost possessions, and fifty families were left temporarily homeless.

- 2-

A Fund such as the CT CARE Fund would provide valuable assistance to such people affected by disaster by providing a mechanism for private donations to be collected and distributed in an organized and collaborative manner. The CT CARE FUND will also give Connecticut a vehicle for participating in charity events like the recent Sandy concert at Madison Square Garden, in which a mechanism such as CT CARE may have made it easier for Connecticut to obtain additional benefits for Connecticut residents and municipalities.

With the support of Governor Malloy, DEMHS has created a Long Term Recovery Working Group that brings together federal, state, local, and private sector partners to coordinate long term recovery from disaster. This CT CARE legislation adds a significant piece to that recovery process, by establishing a fiscally independent framework that will create objective guidelines and protocols to be set into motion once FEMA disaster assistance and other avenues of aid have been exhausted.

It is particularly important to note that the proposed board of the CT CARE Fund includes the five local chairs of the DEMHS regional emergency planning teams (or REPTs), as well as other state, local, and private sector representatives. Also, the Fund's distribution committee will include the DEMHS regional coordinator for the region affected, as well as the chair of the DEMHS REPT for that region, and the CEOs of the municipalities affected. The statutory mission of DEMHS is to provide an integrated and coordinated program of emergency management and homeland security. This legislation recognizes the importance of collaboration while strengthening the resilience of the state and its residents.



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Governor's Bill No. 6374
AAC Coordinated Long-Term Disaster Relief and Recovery

Public Safety and Security Committee
Thursday, February 21, 2013
10:00 AM in Room 1E of the LOB

Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan and distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Governor's Bill 6374, An Act Concerning Long-Term Disaster Relief and Recovery. We are George Bradner of the Connecticut Insurance Department and Mike Lettieri of the Department of Economic and Community Development. We are co-chairmen of the state's Long-Term Recovery Task Force, an arm of the Disaster Recovery Framework. Our task force is charged with identifying and coordinating resources to help Connecticut's communities become more resilient and recover more quickly from catastrophes.

The Governor has identified this mission as essential in moving the state toward greater resiliency. A key component is collaboration among state and federal agencies, local government, the business community and non-profit partners. Our task force is an example of this approach as our members represent all those sectors.

While one function of our task force is to help communities identify their risks and adopt mitigation strategies to minimize damage, we all realize that some catastrophic damage can and will occur. The last two years have been a testament to that, beginning with the record winter of 2010-2011, Storm Irene, the October nor'easter, Superstorm Sandy and most recently the early February blizzard. The sooner our citizens and businesses can put their lives and livelihoods back together the sooner the state can return to normal. It's good for our quality of life and great for our economy. The Governor clearly understands this and his proposal to create the CT Care Fund will go a long way in providing much-needed assistance for recovery in cases not covered by insurance or federal aid.

We believe this fund is a critical step in resiliency and has many benefits. Not all catastrophic events qualify for presidential emergency declarations. In recent years, we have seen flooding in Naugatuck and a tornado in Bridgeport. They were disruptive, destructive and costly to those locally affected but not considered a federal disaster, hence federal funds were not made

available. In the future, this fund could provide a way to assist in the recovery effort of those individuals that are affected and it will allow for individuals and others who want to assist through donations by allowing them to contribute towards specific events.

Insurance money can be a substantial and important resource for recovery. As a point of context, the insurance industry paid more than \$230 million for over 60,000 claims in Connecticut as a result of Irene in 2011. The industry has already paid nearly \$300 million for Superstorm Sandy damages in the state. Total individual FEMA assistance for both Irene and Sandy is around \$21 million to date for Connecticut residents. Yet despite these resources, there are people who still fall through the cracks. For those individuals who have no insurance, are underinsured or have uninsurable damage and do not qualify for FEMA aid, the Governor's fund could make a real difference in their lives.

We also think it is important to note that all the money donated to the fund will stay in Connecticut to help our residents.

We are hopeful that you will support this proposal and in doing so give our state one more important tool for recovery and resiliency. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in favor of this proposal.