



State of Connecticut  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE PATRICIA M. WIDLITZ  
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CHAIRMAN  
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE

MEMBER  
BANKS COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, and members of the Environment Committee,

My name is Patricia Widlitz and I have the honor of representing the 98<sup>th</sup> District, which includes sections of Guilford and Branford. Thank you for the opportunity of testifying before you today **in support of a Mattress Stewardship Program, and in support of a substitute HB 6437.**

As many of you may recall, I have been a strong advocate of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation which holds producers responsible for the cost of recycling or disposing of their products at their end-of-life use. CT has already passed producer responsibility legislation for electronics and most recently, architectural paint and coatings.

Proponents of the legislation have worked diligently with mattress producers over the last year to strengthen and improve the language from last year's bill, and I feel that a much better bill is the result.

The benefits if this legislation are significant:

- Municipalities will save money. DEEP surveyed municipalities and estimated annual costs of \$1.2 million for municipal mattress disposal.
- Decrease unsightly dumping of discarded mattresses.
- Improved recycling rates consistent with the state solid waste management plan.
- Job creation & retention. Two recycling plants are currently accepting a stock of material for recycling. A steady stream will further drive down costs to municipalities and help ensure employment.

Again, I ask the Committee to pass this important legislation with the suggested improvements from ISPA and the Stewardship organization. This legislation has been crafted with an eye toward being a national model for mattress stewardship, and many hours of hard work and cooperation have gone into it. The time has come for a Mattress Stewardship Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Widlitz".

Patricia Widlitz  
State Representative, 98<sup>th</sup> District