



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1154
AAC LIGHTER THAN AIR BALLOONS
January 31, 2025

To: Co-Chairs Sen. Lopes and Rep. Parker, and Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee

From: Lori Brown, Executive Director, CT League of Conservation Voters

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **SB 1154** which would help to educate the public about the threat that helium balloons pose to birds and marine life.

As many testifiers have pointed out, Connecticut's wildlife commonly mistake deflated balloons for food. Imagine a young child swallowing a deflated rubber balloon—they would be rushed to the hospital. Just like children, animals can choke or suffer grave internal injuries, eventually killing them.

To quote one former Senate chairman who helped pass the original law in 1990, "**The balloons go up in splendor and come down as garbage.**"

Helium balloons only take moments to release but they can take hundreds of years to biodegrade, polluting our waterways and shorelines. It doesn't take that long to choke.

Passing this legislation will help bring attention to this problem, protect marine life, and reduce litter. CTLCV urges you to vote in support of SB 1154 to reduce the *unintentional* damage that the *intentional* release of balloons is causing.

Thank you for considering our comments.

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