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## **CT lawmakers supportive of approving \$160M more for crumbling house foundations**

By [Eric Bedner](#), Staff Writer Aug 12, 2024

HARTFORD — Connecticut legislative leaders say they are generally supportive of approving more funding to fix crumbling house foundations after the head of the insurance company helping to fixing the problem said [roughly \\$160 million in additional funding](#) was needed.

Following the approval of the most recent \$25 million allocation from the Bond Commission last week, Michael Maglaras, superintendent of the Crumbling Foundations Solutions Indemnity Co., or CFSIC, said that another roughly \$160 million is needed.

The General Assembly has already approved roughly \$300 million to fix homes with crumbling foundations through two \$100 million bonding packages and a \$12 surcharge on certain homeowner insurance policies that collects roughly \$11 million per year through fiscal year 2030.

Maglaras said last week that another \$100 million in bonding and extending the surcharge through fiscal year 2035 should be enough to fix all affected homes in the state, most of which are in northeastern and north central Connecticut.

Legislative leaders and state lawmakers representing the affected region of the state said they are generally supportive of allocating more funding.

In the past, funding has been approved on a largely bipartisan basis, which House Speaker Matt Ritter, D-Hartford, said is a requirement if more taxpayer and insurance customer dollars are used for crumbling foundations.

"It has worked very successfully; a lot of homes have been rehabilitated and we want to continue that," he said. "The key for me is that it's bipartisan; that is crucial. When we did it previously, Republicans and Democrats came together to do this, and that would be my mandate to do it going forward."

Having toured homes in South Windsor, Ritter said that without funding that has already been allocated, "you'd be decimating pockets of municipalities."

"You would have whole neighborhoods just hollowed out and homes not able to live in," he said.

Despite some objections from lawmakers who didn't think it was fair for Connecticut insurance customers to bear the costs of helping those with crumbling foundations, lawmakers ultimately passed the surcharge law on a bipartisan basis.

"That still matters to me," Ritter said. "I want everybody to vote for it and be a part of it, and say, 'we're all in this together as one state,' and I think we will. I have no doubt that we will."

House Minority Leader Vincent Candelora, R-North Branford, shares Ritter's optimism.

"It is something that I have supported in the past," Candelora said. "I know it's an important, critical issue for eastern Connecticut and it's something that I think there will be many members of my caucus supporting. We've got to continue to find solutions for people that were impacted by something that was no fault of their own. It's truly catastrophic."

Sen. M. Saud Anwar, D-South Windsor, said that he continues to meet with families that are just now recognizing that they have a crumbling foundation and he's ensuring that they understand what options are currently available.

"We have done a great job, but our job is not complete, so we must find ways to continue to do the job that we have," he said. "We promised that the people who are impacted by crumbling foundations, we will take care of them, and we have been. We just need to continue moving forward."

Regarding CFSIC, which is approaching its 1,000th home fixed, "I have only heard positive things from anybody that has interacted with them," Anwar said. "I'm so happy to share that people's lives and livelihoods have been saved because of that. ... There have been hundreds of lives that have been changed."

Candelora said that approval of more funding would likely require an evaluation of CFSIC's operation to date, but added that "I have not heard any complaints, which is always a good sign."

Anwar added that there may be more homes with a similar issue as "in Hamden, there have been come cases of crumbling foundations," he said.

However, it is not yet known whether those foundations are affected by pyrrhotite, the iron-sulfide mineral causing foundations to deteriorate. CFSIC currently only replaces foundations that contain pyrrhotite.

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