



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE TAMI ZAWISTOWSKI
SIXTY-FIRST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4200
300 CAPITOL AVENUE
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL: (800) 842-1423
Tami.Zawistowski@housegop.ct.gov

MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
INTERNSHIP COMMITTEE
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Appropriations Committee Friday, March 27, 2015 Testimony in Support of H.J. No. 19

Dear Senator Bye, Representative Walker, Senator Kane, Representative Ziobron and members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Tami Zawistowski, and I represent the 61st District which includes the towns of Suffield and East Granby, and a portion of the town of Windsor. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of **H.J. No. 19: RESOLUTION REQUIRING A TWO-THIRDS VOTE TO APPROVE MANDATES TO MUNICIPALITIES AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS.**

Municipalities have been subject to many state mandates over the years, some of which do not include funding to implement their requirements. The costs of these unfunded mandates are borne by the affected municipalities, who then must pass along the burden to residential and business taxpayers through higher property taxes.

This bill, if enacted, could reduce the occurrence of unfunded mandates. It would require that at least two-thirds of the members of each house of the General Assembly to approve new mandates which are not funded by the state. The overall effect will be for these mandates to be put into place only with the broad-based support demonstrated through a two-thirds vote, rather than by a simple majority. This requirement may provide some much-needed relief to our municipalities who are frequently struggling to provide basic services to their residents. Enacting this requirement through a Constitutional amendment rather than by statute would solidify compliance and further protect our municipalities.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Representative Tami Zawistowski
61st District – Suffield, East Granby, Windsor