



State of Connecticut

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Appropriations Committee Public Testimony March 8, 2021 Testimony in Support of House Bill 6555

Co-Chairs Osten and Walker, Ranking Members Miner and France, and Distinguished Members of the Joint Committee on Appropriations, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to offer testimony in support of **House Bill 6555: AN ACT CONCERNING LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT AND APPROVAL OF COVID-19 RELIEF FUNDS.**

HB 6555 is an important proposal for our state. Given the amount of federal funds our state has received over the last year, and the funds we are slated to receive in the future, it is crucial that we enact proper oversight of all COVID-19 funds that our state receives from the Federal Government.

This bill will require the Governor to submit recommended allocations of COVID-19 funds to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, who will then submit the recommended allocations to the Appropriations Committee. The committee will then report their findings and present any needed modifications to ensure that the disbursement of all such funds are done in accordance with the allocations approved by the General Assembly.

Legislative oversight is the essence and the core of our entire purpose as Senators and Representatives of this state. We have been elected to serve our state by our constituencies, and we need to regain our seat at the table when it comes to important decisions that impact our districts. We have faced difficult challenges during this pandemic, and it is of paramount importance that we make the right choices for our state in order for us to recover.

I urge the committee to vote favorably on HB 6555. We need this bill requiring legislative oversight and approval of COVID-19 relief funds for the health of our state government.