



State of Connecticut
HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

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

Chairs Senator Osten and Representative Walker, Ranking Members Senator Miner and Representative France and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 6555, *Act Concerning Legislative Oversight and Approval of COVID-19 Relief Funds*.

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March of 2020, the General Assembly allowed the Governor to have unilateral powers to enact policies to mitigate the spread of the virus. The Governor's swift actions were necessary when the entire legislative body was unable to safely convene.

Now, a year later, society has adapted to life under the constraints of COVID-19 and the state legislature has learned how to properly, and safely, conduct its business. This proposal requires the Governor to submit a spending plan to the legislature for any additional federal COVID-19 funding from the federal government. The Appropriations Committee would review the recommendations and if necessary, modify the spending plan before it sends it to full general assembly for approval. It allows the state legislature to operate as the co-equal branch of government it was created to be. The passage of this bill is necessary for the people of Connecticut as we continue to beat this virus together.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 6555. We look forward to working with the committee on this important piece of legislation.