



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.**

This proposal is absolutely necessary for our state in order for us to establish a process for legislative oversight and approval of the allocation of COVID-19 funds from the federal government. We were not elected to sit idle and let our Governor make all the decisions for our state and we need to ensure the proper use involves an open, strategic, equitable distribution of all the COVID-19 funds our state receives.

Our constituencies elected us to ensure proper checks and balances are in place in our state government. We have been entrusted with an important task, and one that impacts all of us now and in the future. We were elected as part of the co-equal branches of our government to have oversight and voting powers on the issues that hold a bearing on the lives of the residents of this state.

It is time for us to all work together to find resolutions to the pressing issues facing our state, with an important one being the prudent and strategic use of the COVID-19 funding to help our state mitigate and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. HB 6555 will help us to restore legislative authority over these matters. This is exactly how our state government should be operating, with the three equal branches of government all playing an equal role to uphold the needed separation of powers.

This proposal will help us to ensure that we are doing the job our constituents have called on us to do for the good of our state. I urge the committee to vote favorably on HB 6555 and I thank the Committee Members for their thoughtful consideration of this proposal.