



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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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 is an important proposal for our state to establish a process for legislative oversight and approval of the allocation of COVID-19 funds from the federal government. We need to ensure the proper use of the COVID-19 funds our state receives because we owe it to our constituencies to uphold proper checks and balances. We have been entrusted with running our state's government, this is the very job that we were elected to do and this needs to be realized through utilizing all of the co-equal branches of government. As we work to debate and find resolutions to a myriad of issues presently before the state, it is especially crucial for us to come together now to work on the biggest issue that is currently before us, which is prudent and strategic use of the COVID-19 funding to help our state mitigate and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

HB 6555, if passed 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 joint standing committee of the General Assembly of cognizance over the state's budget. The committee will then report their approval or any needed modifications which will ensure that the disbursement of all such funds are done in accordance with the allocations approved by the General Assembly. This is how our state government is designed to operate, with the three equal branches of government all playing an equal role, and the Legislature being a vital part of the government's trinity, meant to uphold a separation of powers.

This proposal will help us to ensure that we are doing the job our constituents have entrusted 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.