



State of Connecticut

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REGULATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

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 essential for our state to establish a process for legislative oversight and approval of the allocation of COVID-19 funds from the federal government.

We have an obligation to make sure the COVID-19 funds our state receives are used properly. We have been entrusted by the people in our districts with running our state's government. Oversight and a prudent management of the government resources is the very job that we were elected to do, and this can only be accomplished through utilizing all of the co-equal branches of government.

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.

It is time for us to work together and enact this legislation for the good of our state. I urge the committee to vote favorably on HB 6555 and I thank the Committee Members for their bipartisan consideration and cooperation in this regard.