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CONNECTICUT
GEN. ASSEMBLY
HOUSE

PROCEEDINGS
1992

VOL. 35
PART 17
5523-5839

ACTING SPEAKER REP. TIFFANY: (36th)

Thank you very much. Thank you very much for the notice. If I can call a two second at ease here, I'd just like to mention to Richie that I have served with a total of nine different Speakers and none have shown me more candor or friendship than you.

APPLAUSE

Still at ease, I first took this dais in the last day of the June 1963 session, a very rare phenomenon for a freshman. As I recall, Doctor Cohen was down here in front, who was the father-in-law of Representative Cohen. Governor Weicker was a freshman legislator from Greenwich that sat in the back and Representative Andy Norton wasn't even a gleam in his father's eye.

LAUGHTER AND APPLAUSE

ACTING SPEAKER REP. TIFFANY: (36th)

The House will come to order. The Clerk will please continue with the Call of the Calendar. The Clerk will please call Calendar 456. Excuse me, I'm sorry. The Clerk will please call Calendar 482.

CLERK:

On Page 4, Calendar 482, Senate Bill No. 1, AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION TO EFFECT GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION

CONCERNING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION. (As amended by Senate Amendment Schedule "A").

Favorable Report of the Committee on Appropriations.

ACTING SPEAKER REP. TIFFANY: (36th)

The Chair recognizes Representative Ireland.

REP. IRELAND: (111th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move adoption of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

ACTING SPEAKER REP. TIFFANY: (36th)

Will you remark, ma'am?

REP. IRELAND: (111th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill creates an Office of Finance in the Office of Policy and Management under the direction of an executive financial officer. It also establishes that officer's duties.

It goes on to say that the responsibility for the Data Processing Revolving Fund will now rest jointly with the Office of Policy and Management secretary and the Department of Administrative Services Commissioner and it will be their duty to develop review procedures and accountability standards for that fund.

That basically summarizes the bill, Mr. Speaker. Now the Clerk has an amendment, LCO No. 3742. Would the Clerk please call and I be allowed to summarize.

ACTING SPEAKER REP. TIFFANY: (36th)

(Gavel) Would the House please come to order and I would ask the Clerk to please call LCO5672.

REP. IRELAND: (111th)

Excuse me, Mr. Speaker, it's 3742, formally designated Senate Amendment "A".

ACTING SPEAKER REP. TIFFANY: (36th)

Yes, would the Clerk please call.

CLERK:

LCO No. 3742, designated Senate Amendment Schedule "A", offered by Senator Harper, et al.

ACTING SPEAKER REP. TIFFANY: (36th)

Is there any objection to summarization? If not, please continue.

REP. IRELAND: (111th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The next order of business on this bill is to reject Senate "A". There are -- a number of you, I'm sure, have been spoken to about this amendment. Subsequently there has been a compromise worked out and I will be introducing shortly an amendment that embodies that compromise. So, Mr. Speaker, I would move the rejection of Senate

Amendment "A", LCO No. 3742.

ACTING SPEAKER REP. TIFFANY: (36th)

Thank you, but prior to calling the vote, would you please briefly summarize the amendment. I don't really like to have these votes to reject without at least a basic summarization. Thank you.

REP. IRELAND: (111th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This amendment actually would have called into question the constitutional powers of the comptroller. It also would have established a chief financial officer in the Office of Policy and Management, which was not the intention of the bill. Those basically are the differences, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER REP. TIFFANY: (36th)

Thank you very much. The motion before the Chamber is a motion to reject. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

ACTING SPEAKER REP. TIFFANY: (36th)

Those opposed.

The motion carries.

The amendment is rejected.

REP. IRELAND: (111th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now would the Clerk please call LCO No. 4069.

ACTING SPEAKER REP. TIFFANY: (36th)

The Clerk please call LCO 4069, House "A".

CLERK:

LCO4069, designated House Amendment Schedule "A", offered by Representative Duffy, et al.

ACTING SPEAKER REP. TIFFANY: (36th)

Do you wish to summarize, ma'am?

REP. IRELAND: (111th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, yes.

ACTING SPEAKER REP. TIFFANY: (36th)

Is there any objection to summarization? If not, proceed please.

REP. IRELAND: (111th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This amendment basically corrects what I talked about in the amendment that we just rejected which it makes it very clear that we are establishing an executive financial officer in the Office of Finance under the Office of Policy and Management.

It also calls for a study to be commissioned by the Legislative Management Committee which will report to the Joint Committees of Appropriations and GAE by October 1, 1991 after a review of the Strategic Plan

for Information Technology that was issued on October 1991 and July 1992 has been conducted and at this time I would move its adoption and I would like to yield to Representative Jones who has some comments.

ACTING SPEAKER REP. TIFFANY: (36th)

(Gavel) Please give your attention to -- the Chair recognizes Representative Jones.

REP. JONES: (141st)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I accept the yield. In the Harper-Hull Commission study of this area, the basic objectives were to streamline our accounting systems and our accounting, budgeting and personnel information systems.

Included in that overall objective was the desire to give an executive financial officer in OPM the authority to look at the various accounting systems in the agencies to standardize them and to provide for an open architecture for retrieval of necessary information from the various systems that are defined in this amendment.

At the time that this file came out and was approved, there arose some technical questions in terms of the system's architecture of the comptroller's accounting system versus the agency accounting systems, and as a result, important questions were raised about

the compatibility and our plans for achieving same.

As a result, after discussion, both with OPM, executive and with the state comptroller, it was agreed that a high level study should be done relatively quickly of the technical architecture and the strategic plan that Representative Ireland referred to and relayed how that should be implemented with respect to the state's accounting systems.

This amendment, if passed, will provide for us to get that independent view and thus proceed with the implementation of a modern accounting and financial system for the state.

I would very much recommend that we pass this amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER REP. TIFFANY: (36th)

Thank you, Representative Jones. Is there anyone else who would care to remark on House Amendment "A"? If not, I'll try your minds.

REP. KRAWIECKI: (78th)

Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER REP. TIFFANY: (36th)

Representative Krawiecki.

REP. KRAWIECKI: (78th)

I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker. A question to Representative Ireland please.

ACTING SPEAKER REP. TIFFANY: (36th)

Please frame your question.

REP. KRAWIECKI: (78th)

Representative Ireland, I wonder if you might, for the record, indicate what the cost would be for -- associated with this amendment.

REP. IRELAND: (111th)

Up to $50,000, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER REP. TIFFANY: (36th)

Through the Chair, ma'am.

REP. KRAWIECKI: (78th)

And, through you, Mr. Speaker, this has been incorporated into the budget that maybe will get adopted and the like, through you, Mr. Speaker?

REP. IRELAND: (111th)

Through you, Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding the comptroller, and I have a letter in my possession that says he will pay for it with the understanding that the jurisdiction of the study is under Legislative Management.

REP. KRAWIECKI: (78th)

Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER REP. TIFFANY: (36th)

Thank you, sir. Further remarks before we vote on House Amendment "A"? If not, all those in favor

signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

ACTING SPEAKER REP. TIFFANY: (36th)

Those contrary minded.

The amendment is adopted.

Further remarks on the bill as amended?

Representative Farr.

REP. FARR: (19th)

Just a question, through you, to the proponent of the bill. As I understand it, through some newspaper articles, wasn't there a recommendation of Hull-Harper that we also eliminate the position of comptroller as a separate office, and through you, Mr. Speaker, to Representative -- to the proponent of this bill, what happened to that recommendation, through you, Mr. Speaker?

ACTING SPEAKER REP. TIFFANY: (36th)

Representative Ireland, do you care to respond?

REP. IRELAND: (111th)

Through you, Mr. Speaker, it was not a formal recommendation of the Hull-Harper Commission. We discussed that issue late on in the reorganization after we had already adopted the report in terms of what could be further study into this area.

REP. FARR: (19th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just make the observation as somebody who has called for the elimination of that office as a separate office for 12 years now that it seems to me in reading over some of these recommendations that it would clearly simplify state government were that not to be a separate constitutional office and we were able to merge some of those functions in more adequately with some of the proposals under this bill. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER REP. TIFFANY: (36th)

Further remarks on the bill as amended by House "A"? Are you ready for vote? If so, the aisles be cleared. Everyone return to their seats. Clerk, will you please announce the call on the outside speaker.

CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll call. Members to the Chamber. Members to the Chamber. The House is voting by roll call.

ACTING SPEAKER REP. TIFFANY: (36th)

Has everyone voted and is your vote properly recorded? Has everyone voted and is your vote properly recorded? Has everyone voted and is your vote properly

recorded? If so, the Clerk will take a tally.

The Clerk will please announce the tally.

CLERK:

Senate Bill 1, as amended by House Amendment Schedule "A".

Total Number Voting	144
Necessary for Passage	73
Those voting Yea	144
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not Voting	7

ACTING SPEAKER REP. TIFFANY: (36th)

The bill is passed.

The Clerk please call Calendar 456.

CLERK:

Please turn to Page 14, Calendar 456, Substitute for Senate Bill No. 299, AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE FOR CONNECTICUT. (As amended by Senate Amendment Schedule "A").

Favorable Report of the Committee on Government Administration and Elections.

The committee recommends passage with Senate "A".

REP. WYMAN: (53rd)

Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER REP. TIFFANY: (36th)

Would the House please give their attention to

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rise to request a roll call vote and indicate that -- you're going to accept it, Senator? I defer to Senator Herbst.

SENATOR HERBST:

I will have a friendly meeting with Senator Robertson.

LAUGHTER

THE CHAIR:

Thank you very much. By mutual agreement, the bill -- unless there is any objection from anyone else, this bill will be P-T'd. Any objection? Madam Clerk, do you want to call the next item?

THE CLERK:

Going back to Calendar Page 14, Calendar No. 363, File 514, Senate Bill No. 1, AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION TO EFFECT GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION CONCERNING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION.

Favorable Report of the Committee on Appropriations.

The Clerk is in possession of one amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you very much. The Chair would recognize Senator Harper.

SENATOR HARPER:

Thank you, Madam President. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report, passage of the bill and I'd ask that the Clerk call LCO No. 3742. I'd ask that the reading be waived on the amendment and may I be permitted to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Madam Clerk.

THE CLERK:

LCO3742, designated Senate Amendment "A", Senator Joseph Harper of the 6th District.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you very much. Senator Harper.

SENATOR HARPER:

Yes, essentially, in summary, Madam President, members of the Circle, the amendment puts the file copy back to the original legislation that was proposed to implement the recommendations of the Commission to Effect Government Reorganization relative to the task force on finance budgeting and purchasing and the task force relative to information and technology.

In particular, this amendment would clarify the relationship between the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and the new position of Chief Financial Officer to be created within that office and the Office of the State Comptroller.

I would urge adoption of the amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Senator Harper, I'm not sure, but would you just appease me and formally move the amendment?

SENATOR HARPER:

Yes, I would -- excuse me. I would move adoption of Senate Amendment "A", having previously explained the intent of the amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Yes, fine, just to move it. That's all. Thank you very much, Senator. You have before you Senate Amendment "A", LCO No. 3742. Anybody else wish to remark? Are there any other remarks on Senate Amendment "A", LCO No. 3742? If not, then please let me know your mind. All those in favor of Senate Amendment "A", LCO No. 3742, please signify by saying aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed.

The ayes have it.

The amendment is adopted.

Senator Harper.

SENATOR HARPER:

Thank you, Madam President. Speaking to the bill as amended, this bill makes the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management the state's Chief Financial Officer and creates an Office of Finance and OPM under the direction of an Executive Financial Officer. It establishes the official's duties subject to approval of the Secretary.

In general, the intent of the bill, through the creation of this office, is to create more accountability and central control over finance administration in the state. Once these recommendations are fully implemented, our fiscal staff for the Commission on the Government Reorganization estimated that there's a potential downsizing of from some 700 to 1,000 positions in the area of government financial administration over a period of time with a potential savings of anywhere from $30 million to $50 million.

I believe this is a very critical bill among the several bills from the Commission to Reorganize State Government, and again, once it's fully implemented over a period of, say, two to three years, it will have a significant impact savings-wise both in dollars and in terms of reducing the size of state bureaucracy.

I would move its adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you very much, Senator Harper. Would anyone else wish to remark on Senate Calendar No. 363? Yes, Senator Freedman.

SENATOR FREEDMAN:

Thank you, Madam President. I just rise in support of the bill. I know that the commission did a -- took the time to go into this task and to develop policy for this state that I believe Senator Harper says down the road will save us a lot eventually and also reorganize on a very important and critical area of state government.

I would like to concur with his remarks and I would urge my colleagues to vote for this unanimously.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you very much, Senator Freedman. Would anybody else wish to remark on Senate Calendar No. 363, Senate Bill No. 1? Would anybody else wish to remark? If not, Senator Harper.

SENATOR HARPER:

If there's no objection, I'd move this item to the Consent Calendar, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you very much, Senator. Is there any objection to placing Senate Calendar No. 363, Senate

Bill No. 1, as amended by Senate Amendment "A", LCO No. 3742 on the Consent Calendar? Is there any objection? Hearing none, it is so ordered. Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Calendar Page 32, Calendar No. 271, File No. 350, Senate Bill No. 474, AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION TO EFFECT GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION CONCERNING SERVICE PROVIDERS.

Favorable Report of the Committee on Appropriations.

The Clerk is in possession of one amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you very much. The Chair would recognize Senator Przybysz.

SENATOR PRZYBYSZ:

Thank you, Madam President. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you very much. Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

LCO3372, which will be designated Senate Amendment Schedule "A". It's offered by Senator Przybysz of the 19th District.

THE CHAIR:

THE CHAIR:

Now I presume we're going to do the Consent Calendar, No. 2. Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

An immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate on the second Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber. An immediate roll call has been requested in the Senate on the second Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you very much, Mr. Clerk. The issue before the Chamber is Consent Calendar No. 2 for Tuesday, April 28, 1992. Mr. Clerk, will you please read the items that have been placed on Consent.

THE CLERK:

Beginning on Calendar Page 14, Calendar No. 363, Senate Bill No. 1.

Calendar Page 25, Calendar No. 46, Substitute for Senate Bill No. 4.

Calendar Page 26, Calendar 114, Substitute for Senate Bill 202.

Calendar Page 27, Calendar 115, Substitute for Senate Bill 334. Calendar 154, Senate Bill No. 205.

Calendar Page 28, Calendar 171, Substitute for

Senate Bill 322. Calendar No. 190, Substitute for Senate Bill 470.

And Calendar Page 30, Calendar No. 254, Substitute for Senate Bill 147.

Calendar Page 31, Calendar No. 266, Substitute for Senate Bill 284.

Calendar Page 32, Calendar 271, Senate Bill No. 474.

And Calendar Page 34, Calendar No. 54, Substitute for Senate Joint Resolution No. 3.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you very much, Mr. Clerk. You've heard the items that have been placed on the Consent Calendar No. 2 for today, April 28, 1992. The machine is on. You may record your vote.

Have all Senators voted that wish to vote? Have all Senators voted that wish to vote? The machine is closed.

The result of the vote:

36 Yea

0 Nay

0 Absent

The Consent Calendar is adopted.

Senator Larson. I mean Senator O'Leary, I'm sorry.

SENATOR O'LEARY:

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No. 203, Substitute for Senate Bill No. 299, Senate Calendar No. 204, Substitute for Senate Bill No. 404 and Senate Calendar No. 216, Substitute for Senate bill 156 on the Consent Calendar? Is there any objection? Hearing none, so ordered.

SENATOR O'LEARY:

Page 20, Calendar 279, Substitute for Senate Bill No. 416, I move to the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Is there any objection to placing Senate Calendar No. 279, Substitute for Senate Bill 416 on the Consent Calendar? Is there any objection? Hearing none, so ordered.

SENATOR O'LEARY:

Page 21, Calendar No. 323, Substitute for Senate Bill No. 363, I move to the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Is there any objection to placing Senate Calendar No. 323, Substitute for Senate Bill 363 on the Consent Calendar? Is there any objection? Any objection? Hearing none, so ordered.

SENATOR O'LEARY:

Page 22, Calendar 363, Senate Bill No. 1; Calendar 445, Substitute for House Bill No. 5008, I move to the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Is there any objection in placing Senate Calendar No. 363, Senate Bill No. 1 and Senate Calendar No. 445, Substitute for House Bill No. 5008 on the Consent Calendar? Is there any objection? Hearing none, so ordered.

SENATOR O'LEARY:

Now, Madam President, I have a list of items that are marked Go.

Beginning on Page 2, Calendar No. 300 is a Go.

Page 4, Calendar 366 I believe is a Go. I'm sorry, Madam President. I'm asked to pass temporarily on 366.

Page 7, Calendar No. 408 is a Go.

Page 10, Calendar No. 468 is Go.

Page 11, Calendar 477 is Go.

Page 12, Calendar No. 489 and 492, both Go.

Page 13, Calendar 496, Go.

Page 14, Calendar 122 and Calendar 159 are Go.

Page 15, a Go on 172, 213, 256 and 260. Those Calendars are all Go.

Page 16, 261 is a Go.

Page 17, 325 is Go.

Page 20, Calendar 295 is a Go.

Page 21, Calendar 355 is Go.

That is the Go List thus far, Madam President.

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5793.

Calendar Page 12, Calendar No. 489, Substitute for House Bill 5876; Calendar 491, Substitute for House Bill 5929; Calendar 492, House Bill No. 5571.

Calendar Page 13, Calendar 493, Substitute for House Bill 5201.

Calendar Page 14, Calendar No. 500, Substitute for House Bill 5572.

Calendar Page 19, Calendar No. 203, Substitute for Senate Bill 299; Calendar No. 204, Substitute for Senate Bill 404; Calendar 216, Substitute for Senate Bill 156; Calendar 279, Substitute for Senate Bill 416 on Page 20.

Calendar Page 21, Calendar 323, Substitute for Senate Bill 363.

Calendar Page 22, Calendar 363, Senate Bill No. 1; Calendar 445, Substitute for House Bill 5008.

Madam President, that completes the first Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you very much, Mr. Clerk. That completes the items that have been placed on Consent Calendar No. 1 for today. You've heard those items. The machine is open. You may record your vote.

Senator Barrows. Senator Herbst. Have all

Senators voted that wish to vote? Have all Senators voted that wish to vote? The machine is closed.

The result of the vote:

35 Yea

0 Nay

1 Absent

The Consent Calendar is adopted.

SENATOR MUNSTER:

Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Why certainly, Senator Munster. See, the second time around, I can do it.

SENATOR MUNSTER:

Thank you. I missed the vote on Senate Bill 387. I'd like to be recorded in the affirmative please.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you very much, Senator. The Journal will so note.

CLERK:

Returning to Calendar Page 13, Calendar No. 496, File No. 344, Substitute for House Bill 5015, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PURCHASE AND SALE OF HYPODERMIC NEEDLES AND SYRINGES. (As amended by House Amendment Schedule "B" and "D").

Favorable Report of the Committee on Public Health.

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speaker, we will not be coming back at 7:00, at 7:00, that's right. The first person to testify is Representative Krawiecki followed by Senator Gunther.

REP. KRAWIECKI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, committee members, for allowing me the opportunity to speak today on the very important pieces of legislation on the agenda for this hearing. Specifically, I'd like to express my strong support for HB5828, AN ACT REQUIRING A NON-BINDING REFERENDUM ON REPEAL OF THE STATE INCOME TAX, SJ17, A RESOLUTION PROPOSING A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ESTABLISHING THE POWER TO RECALL CERTAIN ELECTED OFFICIALS, and SJ19, A RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION CONCERNING INDIRECT INITIATIVE.

SB1
SJ18

The Constitution of the United States begins with the words "We the People," a simple recognition of the long held principle that our government is and must be by of and for the people. The legislative proposals before the Government Administration and Elections Committee today are en extension of this belief that it is the people who ultimately hold the right and power to govern.

If anything good emerged from last year's debate over an income tax, it is that the people of Connecticut reasserted themselves in the process of government. Never before did so many people take the time to write or call their legislators to express their opinions on an issue and never before did so many people take the time to come to the Capitol either for a hearing or the October rally to express their views.

No issue in memory has generated the public debate and controversy as the income tax has. The people of Connecticut are frustrated and they are angry because they are being forced to pay a tax that they clearly do not want. The people of Connecticut should be allowed to have a say on an issue which directly affects their paychecks and their ability to make ends meet.

The non-binding referendum proposed by HB5828 would afford the people to say what they clearly want on

I strongly urge the committee to approve SJ17 and to put recall provisions in our constitution. I, for one, do not fear this proposal. I believe that elected officials at all times should be held accountable to the people who elected them and at all times should be held accountable for doing the job those people want.

Just as is the case with initiative and referendum, recall is not an alien or radical concept. Other states have recall provisions and they have not seen any rash of recall elections. This is democracy. It lets the people govern.

Finally, I would also like to take the opportunity to speak briefly in support of Proposed SB1, AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION TO EFFECT GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION. This commission, known as the Harper-Hull Commission, and the need to consolidate and reorganize our government was first proposed in the Republican alternative budgets offered last year. Eventually it was created and given the job of recommending reorganization of our state government to make it more effective and efficient.

We all have come to realize that government reorganization must be a priority if we are to bring state spending under control once and for all. Our government has grown in past years as the General Assembly has created one bureaucracy here to address one problem and another bureaucracy there to address another problem.

We now have more agencies than the federal government, a fact that borders on the incredible. The time has come to address this problem and implementation of the Harper-Hull Commission recommendations is a step in that direction.

Through the proposals before your committee today, we in the General Assembly have the opportunity to chart a new course for state government. Not only can we provide a more efficient government through the reorganization measure, but we can build upon our democratic principles and history through the

measures I addressed earlier. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to provide testimony and I'll be glad to answer any questions you might have.

REP. KINER: Thank you, Representative Krawiecki. Are there any questions from the committee members? Senator Herbst followed by Representative Rapoport.

SEN. HERBST: Thank you, Representative Krawiecki. I'm not quite sure, in your comments you went from direct initiative to indirect initiative, would you clarify that, because the bill does speak directly to indirect initiative? HB 5828

REP. KRAWIECKI: Senator, I think my commentary leads to the direction that I support either both direct or indirect initiative. Your proposition, as you pointed out, is for only indirect. I would hope that at some future point we might allow for the other type as well.

REP. KINER: Representative Rapoport.

REP. RAPOPORT: I'd like to, Mr. Chairman, (inaudible, mic not on) I don't see any date suggested or proposed for a referendum. Do you have a specific date (inaudible)?

REP. KRAWIECKI: Representative Rapoport, I think Election Day would be a fine time in November. I think it would probably be the most efficient way to carry out the referendum. It would obviously minimize any cost to municipalities and I think since the machines are already to be set up that that would be the appropriate time.

I would also point out to the representative that we will have the question of a cap -- a constitutional cap on state spending. It seems perfectly logical and consistent to perhaps carry both items out on the same date.

REP. RAPOPORT: In reference to the wording on the referendum, the wording suggested here says state tax on wages and other (inaudible, mic not on) to be repealed, yes or no. I find this curious as the language (inaudible). I know that you and other people who worked on (inaudible) budget last year

I happen to have campaigned very strongly for that 18 year old vote, but we see the results today and here we are almost 20 years later and we still get very low registering of voters, very low participation.

So I'd say, as an example, that should prove something to you, but I can't see how anybody could ever not vote for this thing, because as I say, I think it's a copout and I think that the electorate will tell us during the election of whether or not they approve of what we did up here last year. I don't know if there's any questions, Mr. Chairman.

REP. KINER: I believe Senator Herbst has a question for you.

SEN. HERBST: Good afternoon, Senator Gunther. I just want to make notice of the fact that there was a reason for putting indirect initiative based upon reports we got back from California. I'd be very happy to share that information with you.

SEN. GUNTHER: Well, my only trouble, Senator Herbst, is that, you know, the business of being able to take and amend it, and of course, that leaves a very broad field in the language there, and as long as you didn't alter the intent and you know what we can do up here, between our lawyers and ourselves, we do a hell of a good job chopping up laws and I think that when somebody goes through the process of an initiative, or even for that matter, a referendum, I think it ought to stay put, as they put it, and we should answer the public at some later date and not make it so easy for them.

SEN. HERBST: I still would like to have you look at that information relative as to what happened in California. Thank you.

SEN. GUNTHER: Fine.

SEN. HERBST: Thank you.

REP. KINER: Thank you, Senator.

SEN. GUNTHER: Thank you.

REP. KINER: Bill Curry.

COMPTROLLER WILLIAM CURRY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I'm here to testify in response to SB1 which embraces the diverse recommendations of the Harper-Hull Commission. I just want to make clear at the outset that my opposition is only to portions of the work of one task force of the committee which affects our own office and the overall management of the state's financial systems.

I commend the members of the task force for the work that they've done and I recognize the needs that is before us to consolidate streamlining and continue to professionalize state government.

I would just say at the outset, as many members of the committee are aware, there certain has arisen over the course of the last year and a half a certain tension between the comptroller's office and in some different points over different issues, the administration. I think that there's a natural tension.

The role of the comptroller is to be a watchdog and a supervisor and that relationship is always one in which there are necessarily differing perspectives. I think it's a very healthy one and it's one that our constitution set out and I think that on all sides I think there's a growing recognition of the need to collaborate on the things that need to be done in order to move the state forward in these critical management issues.

These recommendations, however, fail to do that and I want to focus just on two of them in principle and just give you a couple of minutes on each as to where our problems are. The first is regarding the establishment of an executive financial officer and I've had many discussions with members of the task force, with Representative Jones and Fusscas and others who have put an enormous amount of work into this and I want to just say that some of what they're trying to accomplish here, we have no objection to.

If the administration of the Office of Policy and Management feels the need to have a central manager helping to upgrade the professional skills of budget officers and financial officers out in the agencies and to give that sort of a uniform direction I, frankly, have no objection. There is specific language here, however, which pursues a kind of turf war which violates the constitution of the state and which confuses the question of basic accountability in the state's financial management systems and I just want to point to that. There is language which says that we should direct the accounting and budget operations of the agency using the methodology and procedures established by the executive financial officer.

The constitution and the long established practice of the state are quite clear. The comptroller prescribes the mode of keeping and rendering all public accounts and to enact a statute I think on little legal reflection as well as I would say a deficient managerial reflection, which violates that, invites a conflict at a time when in fact, as I said earlier, managerial collaboration is in order.

Again, similar language a little further down, which says that the comptroller shall meet the requirements of the Executive Branch as specified by the governor or his designated agent, there's an underlying point here that members where speaking to which is appropriate and that is that all of the accounting systems and existing as they do in diverse computer systems, need to be operating in an open, interconnected way so that each agency can have access without bureaucratic hassle to the information it needs.

We are in the Plasticine Age in terms of our ability to retrieve, manipulate and analyze basic data about our own bureaucracy. This is an extraordinarily huge and complex institution and we desperately need to move forward, and unfortunately, in many areas, our computer systems have been a Tower of Babel, speaking in different languages with different protocols and the direct instruction to all of us which this office and my own office wholeheartedly supports to ensure, as

the legislation setting up the Office of Information Technology set out some years ago, that those systems are seamless and interconnected and open to one another. That's an absolute necessity, but to frame that language as this office meeting the accounting requirements of the governor stands the constitution on its head. I'm not sure what the intent was of those who were framing it, but it's inappropriate.

The second major point, and I'll try to wind up. I know what it's like to be on the other side of this deluge of information, which is absolutely critical to us, is the question of designating the DAS systems, the acronyms for which are SAAAS and BOSS, the state agency accounting systems, business system as the official systems from which our office would take data.

This is, one, I would submit to you, a technical question being submitted for legislative direction. All of us know -- I'll freely admit, I started this job as someone who -- I own a VCR, but I only watch movies on it. I don't record because it's just too complicated and all of us coming into public life and dealing with these issues of technology, they're opaque. They're extremely difficult. All of us have some level of avoidance about them.

In fact, this is a critical issue. For all the commissions and committees that will pass laws, nothing will affect the performance, accessibility and productivity of government as much as the computer system, software programs, etc., that we're developing on a professional basis within the bureaucracy. That will do more, in fact, to give this government its structure and determine its effectiveness than many of the things those of us sitting as elected officials believe that we're accomplishing towards those ends.

I just want to say about this system that clearly the commission did not have before it adequate information about how our system runs and about how our system would run. It's the wrong road, and let me just two quick things about it and I'll give it up. The first is this. I'm going to try -- I'm going to try to make this as simple as I can. It's an extraordinarily difficult topic, but the SAAAS

system depends on something called asynchronous technology. For any of the computer (inaudible) in the audience, you will know that is years and years out of date. It is not a modern protocol.

The system which we have been developing in our own present central accounting system in its first phase, which is fully finished and in our second phase which we are now implementing has something called synchronous technology. The difference is that asynchronous technology sends information one character at a time in only one direction, whereas synchronous technology simultaneously sends thousands of characters of information in both directions.

It is as any dispassionate and uninvolved consultant will tell you it will cost the state -- I don't know how we reached this point in the development of that technology, but in fact and what is supposed to be a cost savings proposal, it will cost the state millions of dollars to set this system up and it will always cost more to maintain it. That protocol is out of conformance with 90 percent of the existing terminals in the state system. Ours is synchronous with those terminals.

So, number one, it costs far more money that the status quo. Number two, it embraces an utterly out of date technology that would need costly conversion and maintenance, and number three, as I indicated earlier, it violates a basic constitutional provision which sets these standards clearly under their jurisdiction of our office.

We've actually set up the only two statewide systems in existence, the payroll system and the central accounting system. No other office has that experience and we are within 18 months of concluding both time and attendance under a legislative mandate and this system the programs that have been by this General Assembly directed to us to do.

To cut that off in midstream would be just a neurotic dislocation of a system at a time when we need stability and clarity of direction. Lastly, I just want to point out about SAAAS that it doesn't do most of the major tasks that a central

accounting system has to do. It doesn't do revenue and receipts. It doesn't do accounts payable and receivable, check writing, transfers, gap reporting, federal receivables.

As an accounting mechanism, in addition to a computer mechanism, it needs to be thoroughly reworked to accomplish the basic tasks that our system has been performing for years. Again, the question of intent aside, this is about turf and jurisdiction and for us it's also about the constitution. I'm very proud of the work we've done in the 14 months that I've been comptroller in our office. We've taken nine divisions and made four bureaus. We've reorganized, we've set out I think the first plain language plans for computer operations this state has ever seen, copies all of which are available to this committee and I think it's the first time that an office of the state has been proceeding in a timely fashion with the implementation of a legislatively mandated program.

I'm deeply proud of that and I would ask the committee to look very carefully at both these recommendations and in fact to oppose them. Thank you for your patience in listening to this.

REP. KINER: For the edification of those who plan on testifying on SB1 and for the committee members, the original concept of SB1 was to be an all encompassing bill to include all the Hull-Harper information. However, the way this bill will come out of committee is the way that the comptroller testified, that is, to reflect the recommendations of the finance and information task forces. Senator Herbst.

SEN. HERBST: To the comptroller please. Number one, did you serve on either the finance -- did you serve on the Finance Subcommittee or were you part of that --.

COMPTROLLER WILLIAM CURRY: Was I part of the subcommittee, no, I was not.

SEN. HERBST: Okay, did you give information relative to what we discussed?

COMPTROLLER WILLIAM CURRY: We made a presentation. As I pointed out earlier, I believe that the committee itself was insufficient apprised of the actions before it. I don't think any of the testimony you've heard today was brought before them. In fact it reflects research our office has done. About 90 percent of the information was supplied by the Office of Policy and Management and by the Department of Administrative Services, each of whom, as you know, who have been in government so long, there are sort of these futile baronies within the bureaucracy which percolate from year to year, seeking power from one another and these are some longstanding -- it's been like the "War of the Roses" over this stuff, from what I've been able to piece together.

And those two agencies affected by the outcome really did produce almost all of the information presented the committee and I think that whether it was a matter of intent or not that what the task force got was somewhat skewed as a result.

SEN. HERBST: May I ask that you do this please? We have in front of us the recommendations of both of those subcommittees. What I would like to have you do is to go through those recommendations and indicate from the comments that you've made today where you would like to have the committee do some reconsideration.

COMPTROLLER WILLIAM CURRY: Absolutely.

SEN. HERBST: Thank you.

COMPTROLLER WILLIAM CURRY: Thank you.

REP. KINER: Are there any other questions from the committee members? Representative Rapoport.

REP. RAPOPORT: Just a fast one. If the recommendation about the chief financial officer within the Office of OPM were to be adopted by the legislature, can you tell us what the consequences would be in terms of the overlapping confusion between that office

and your office in terms of the constitutional -- in terms of function -- in terms of day to day functioning and the major issues that you have to deal with in your office?

COMPTROLLER WILLIAM CURRY: Absolutely. Every accounting practice in this state comes out of the comptroller's handbook. There are memorandums, for those few of you that have delved this far into the innards of the bureaucracy, you know that there is a stead stream of accounting directives that come out of our department, and as I said, that stems from constitutional authorities saying that the comptroller shall prescribe the mode of keeping and rendering all public accounts. We do that now.

The language proposed here which would seek in our statute to subsume those responsibilities in effect, let me say on its face purports to do that, would create a clear contradiction of authority in virtually every single area, so that there's almost, in a system that large there's virtually no aspect of the state's financial management that would not in fact be serving two masters.

It's one thing -- actually I think in deference to my feelings, changed it to executive financial officer rather than chief financial officer, but the fact of the matter is that in every particular as it's presently worded, it would seek to set up two separate sets of directions when the constitution and all present law set up only one. So it's all encompassing.

REP. RAPOPORT: Thank you.

REP. KINER: Mr. Curry.

COMPTROLLER WILLIAM CURRY: I just wanted to add that in our office presently there are 84 accounting specialists overseeing that system. In the Bureau of DAS that would oversee this, presently there are two. There is no mention in the report of the organizational restructuring that would have to go on. I mean DAS -- and I want to make final remark about all of this. There are two separate theories about where to take the public sector right now that are out there, one of which is the continued interrogation and concentration of executive power

at the top and one of the disturbing trends here is the idea that a super agency, by arrogating all of this power will somehow make the public sector perform better.

In other states, in the private sector, looking at IBM, GM, our sister states, the federal government -- they're going more what this administration proposes in other forum which is decentralization. We've done total quality management now in our office for over six months, implementation. It's the entirely other road and what we've found in DAS' own history is it has expanded and contracted like an accordion. Public Works is put in -- it's taken out. Telecommunications is put in, but in fact the responsibilities have stayed in our office for three years for the bill paying and the mechanics of it and that's because in fact the personal committed attention of someone at the top in any key area like this is absolutely essential and in those large agencies it just doesn't happen.

Second and third year bureaucrats are left virtually to their own devices, lacking the political mandate and the personal attention of leadership in the very top of the organization because we're all human beings and we can only accomplish so much and attend to so much.

The system that we have now is moving forward, I'm very proud to say, more expeditiously and clearly than it every has and we have a chance to save tens of millions of dollars for this state and improve the productivity and efficiency and operation of state government in a manner that will truly make a difference in the next decade. This is not the time to send out conflicting signals on such a critical, critical topic. Thank you very much for your patience.

REP. KINER: Thank you. Representative O'Neill followed by Senator Jepsen.

REP. O'NEILL: Thank you, Chairman Kiner and Chairman Herbst. I just want to briefly say that before Mr. Curry leaves that I have never fully understand

SJ 17
SJ 18
SJ 19
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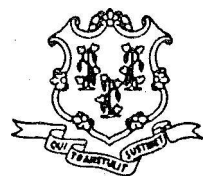

State of Connecticut
HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONN. 06106

TESTIMONY OF HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER EDWARD C. KRAWIECKI, JR.

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE SB1 SJ18

MARCH 16, 1992

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak today on the very important pieces of legislation on the agenda for this hearing. Specifically, I would like to express my strong support for House Bill 5828, An Act Requiring A Nonbinding Referendum on Repeal of the State Income Tax; Senate Joint Resolution 17, Resolution Proposing a Constitutional Amendment Establishing the Power to Recall Certain Elected Officials; and Senate Joint Resolution 19, Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Concerning Indirect Initiative.

The Constitution of the United States begins with the words, "We the people," a simple recognition of the long-held principle that our government is and must be by, of and for the people. The legislative proposals before the Government Administration and Elections Committee today are an extension of this belief that it is the people who ultimately hold the right and the power to govern.

If anything good emerged from last year's debate over the income tax, it is that the people of Connecticut reasserted themselves in the process of government. Never before did so many people take the time to write or call their legislators to express

The concepts of initiative and referendum are not radical or drastic. Rather, initiative and referendum are democracy in its purest form; allowing the voters the right to govern themselves and to determine the course of their government. I find it ironic that the power of referendum is commonplace in municipal government in Connecticut yet it is virtually non-existent in state government, being allowed only in the process through which our Constitution is amended.

It is difficult to understand why anyone would oppose initiative and referendum. Perhaps the reason most people oppose these proposals is because they do not trust the people and their ability to govern. This, to me, represents nothing less than a mistrust in democracy, and I wish to be no part of that.

Fear and mistrust of the electorate also may be the source of opposition to another proposed constitutional amendment before your committee, the proposal to allow for recall of certain elected officials. I strongly urge the committee to approve Senate Joint Resolution 17 and to put recall provisions in our Constitution.

I, for one, do not fear this proposal. I believe that elected officials at all times should be held accountable to the people who elected them and at all times should be held accountable for doing the job those people want. Just as is the case with initiative and referendum, recall is not an alien or radical concept. Other states have recall provisions and they have not seen any rash of recall elections. This is democracy, it lets the people govern.

Finally, I would also like to take the opportunity to speak briefly in support of Proposed Senate Bill 1, An Act Concerning the Implementation of the

Recommendations of the Commission to Effect Government Reorganization. This commission, known as the Hull-Harper Commission, and the need to consolidate and reorganize our government was first proposed in the Republican alternative budgets offered last year. It eventually was created and given the job of recommending reorganization of our state government to make it more effective and efficient.

We all have come to realize that government reorganization must be a priority if we are to bring state spending under control once and for all. Our government has grown in past years as the General Assembly has created one bureaucracy here to address one problem and another bureaucracy there to address another problem. We now have more agencies than the federal government, a fact that borders on the incredible. The time has come to address this problem and implementation of the Hull-Harper Commission recommendations is a step in that direction.

Through the proposals before your committee today, we in the General Assembly have the opportunity to chart a new course for state government. Not only can we provide a more efficient government through the reorganization measure, but we can build upon our democratic principles and history through the measures I addressed earlier. Thank you for allowing me to offer my testimony. I will gladly answer any questions you may have.

JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS

HUMAN SERVICES
PART 4
1029-1330

1992

SEN. PRZYBYSZ: I'm sorry Representative Stevens.

REP. STEVENS: (inaudible)

SEN. PRZYBYSZ: Yes, please do.

REP. STEVENS: Thank you. Thank you so much for all the work and the thought that you've put into this. It's exciting yes to envision a new way of doing things. My question is, in the plan, have you considered certain points along the way, that you can stop and say, you know, where are we, and are we meeting our objectives and, are we where we ought to be?

And is this saving us money? Whatever questions. Is that built into your plan of operation?

LORI ARONSON: We have, again, perhaps not as detailed as some would like. But we have mapped out a time table that we thing sets out those points. And, the proposal that you have before you, maps out a reporting time table that I think should assure you that you will have a chance, certainly, along the way. Wherever necessary to, to intervene.

REP. STEVENS: Thank you.

SEN. PRZYBYSZ: Thank you Representative Stevens. Thank you Miss Aronson. Janet Kniffin followed by Mr. George Precourt, please. Janet.

JANET KNIFFIN: Thank you Senator Przybysz. Good afternoon. My name is Janet Kniffen and I'm Staff at the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women. I'm here to testify today, in support of the consolidation of Child Support Enforcement Services into a single agency. PCSW believes that consolidation of current services would greatly improve the efficiency, the service delivery, and child support collections. (SB473) SB1

Currently, 6 separate agencies work on child support enforcement. A parent seeking child support enforcement, faces the confusing task of

finding the departments and offices which are responsible for his or her particular concerns. Consolidation would eliminate the confusing maze, which is a major barrier to enforcement.

Our concern of course, stems from the fact that single parent families, overwhelmingly, single mothers caring for children, represent the larger segment of people and poverty. According to the 1990 study produced by PCSW, the Connecticut Womens Education Legal Fund, and Hartford College for Women, the economic consequences of divorce a dramatic for custodial parents.

The per capita income of women, at the moment they are divorced in Connecticut drops 16%, while the per capita income of men, increases 23%. And these numbers are adjusted to reflect child support awards. We know that in Connecticut, women are most likely to be awarded custody of the children. And when we look at the actual household income, rather than the per capita income, women face a frightening drop of 53%.

Or in real numbers, a drop from a pre-divorced household income of approximately $41,000 to a post-divorced household income of approximately $19,000. In the same study, 1 out of 4 custodial parents reports receiving none of the child's support owed to them. If you consider that 70% of all full time working women, make less than $25,000 a year, the loss of child support makes the economic status of women headed households even more marginal.

In many cases, a woman's ability to enter the child support system, and receive the child support award, can mean the difference of returning to Public Assistance, or functioning in a financially independent manner. The Thomas Commission estimated that consolidation of child support can save the State of Connecticut half a million dollars per year.

This is an important incentive. In 1991, 1,200 families that received AFDC, were able to leave Public Assistance because child support was collected on their behalf. Child support enforcement to these families needing assistance,

will help them avoid the welfare line. Although there have been improvements to this system over the last several years, resulting in increased revenue for the state, an increased economic stability for custodial parents, there is more work to be done to simplify this system in order to better serve Connecticut families.

We support consolidation as part of an effort to improve efficiency, of course, but primarily we support the consolidation of Child Support Enforcement Services to help fight the economic instability that plagues increasing numbers of women and their children. Thank you.

SEN. PRZYBYSZ: Thank you very much Janet. George Precourt, please. Let me just say, I want to apologize to the members of the public. That we did go overboard with the Governor's presence here in the first hour. And I do want to apologize. I know some people have been concerned about that and I do want to apologize to the members of the public. Thank you very much Janet. George, you're next, and if you have written testimony, we'd be happy to read it or do you want to summarize your written testimony?

GEORGE PRECOURT: It's very summarized Senator.

SEN. PRZYBYSZ: Thank you George.

GEORGE PRECOURT: Senator Przybysz, members of the committee, my name is George Precourt, Executive Director of the State Board of Education and Services for the Blind. I'm here today, as you are, to try to insure that the quality and integrity of Connecticut's Human Services Delivery System, remains intact in the period of dwindling state resources. Just over 2 years ago, it was my honor to have been appointed as Executive Director of the Board of Education and Services for the Blind. SB473

A nationally recognized state agency, whose consumer driven, community based delivery system, provides comprehensive, regionalized, statewide birth to death services for Connecticut citizens who are legally blind or severly visually impaired. My experience is, and involvement, both in

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Representative Richard Tulisano
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(SB 473)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HUMAN SERVICES REORGANIZATION
SENATE BILL #1 AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION TO EFFECT GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND IN PARTICULAR THE CONSOLIDATION OF CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

BEFORE A JOINT PUBLIC HEARING OF THE COMMITTEES ON
HUMAN SERVICES,
PUBLIC HEALTH,
AND PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS

THURSDAY MARCH 19, 1992 AT 1:00 P.M.

IN ROOM 2B, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING

Hello, my name is Janet Kniffin of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women. I am here to testify in support of the consolidation of child support enforcement services into a single human service agency.

PCSW believes that consolidation of current services would greatly improve efficiency, service delivery, and child support collections. Currently, six separate agencies work on child support enforcement including the Department of Human Resources, the Judicial Department, the Department of Income Maintenance, the Bureau of Collection Services, and the Department of Public Safety (State Police).

A woman seeking child support enforcement faces the confusing task of finding the departments and officers which are responsible for her particular concerns. Consolidation would eliminate the confusing maze which is a major barrier to enforcement.

Our concern, of course, stems from the fact that single parent families -- overwhelmingly single mothers caring for children -- are the largest segment of people in poverty. According to the 1990 study produced by PCSW, the Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund, and Hartford College for Women,

the economic consequences of divorce are dramatic for custodial parents. The per capita income of women at the moment they are divorced in Connecticut drops 16% while the per capita income of men increases 23% - and these numbers are adjusted to reflect child support awards. We know that in Connecticut, women are most likely to be awarded custody of the children and when we look at actual household income rather than per capita income, women face a frightening drop of 53% - or in real numbers, a drop from a pre-divorce household income of $41,565 to a post-divorce household income of $19,380.

In the same study, one out of four custodial parents reports receiving none of the child support owed to them. If you consider that 70% of all full-time working women make less than $25,000 a year, the loss of child support makes the economic status of women-headed households even more marginal. In many cases, a woman's ability to enter the child support system and receive the child support award can mean the difference between turning to public assistance or functioning in a financially independent manner.

The Thomas Commission estimated that consolidation of child support could save the State of Connecticut half a million dollars per year. This is an important incentive. In 1991, 1,200 families that received AFDC were able to leave public assistance because child support was collected on their behalf. Child support enforcement to these families needing assistance will help them avoid the welfare line.

Although there have been improvements to the system over the last several years, resulting in increased revenues for the state and increased economic stability for custodial parents, there is more work to be done to simplify the system in order to better serve Connecticut's families.

We support consolidation as part of an effort to improve efficiency, of course, but primarily we support consolidation to help fight the economic instability that plagues increasing numbers of women and their children.