

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

**PA 14-98**

SB29

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**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
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THE CLERK:

House Calendar 49 -- no, House Calendar 534,  
favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on  
Finance, Revenue, and Bonding, Substitute Senate  
Bill 29, AN ACT AUTHORIZING ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE  
STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND  
OTHER PURPOSES.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Boukus, good evening. You have  
the floor, madam.

REP. BOUKUS (22nd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Oh, it's not on the board yet. Hang on.

REP. BOUKUS (22nd):

Oh, well let's get it moving here.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Mr. Clerk, can you get it moving please? Okay,  
we're on the board, Representative Boukus.

REP. BOUKUS (22nd):

All right.

Madam Speaker, I move for the acceptance of  
Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of  
the bill in concurrence with the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The question is on acceptance of the Joint  
Committee's favorable report in concurrence with the

Senate.

Representative Boukus.

REP. BOUKUS (22nd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, the Clerk has in his possession LCO 5514. May he please call and I be allowed to summarize?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Will the Clerk please call LCO Number 5514, which is designated as Senate Amendment "A".

THE CLERK:

Senate Amendment "A", LCO 5514, introduced by Senator Fonfara, et al.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

And the good Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize.

Objection? Objection?

Seeing none, hearing none, Representative Boukus.

REP. BOUKUS (22nd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

This is a strike-all amendment and it becomes a bill. I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The question before the Chamber is on the adoption. Will you remark?

Representative Boukus, you have the floor.

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REP. BOUKUS (22nd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

May I call LCO -- you didn't adopt my amendment yet? Well, son of a -- yes, that's not good.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

We got there, Betty.

REP. BOUKUS (22nd):

Okay. Good.

What would you like me to do now, summarize?

All right.

This is a -- pardon me?

This is a strike all, as I just got through saying. And it's the bill that we're working on for bonding for this month, and I -- I moved adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The question before the Chamber is on adoption.

A VOICE:

Of Senate "A".

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Of Senate "A".

REP. BOUKUS (22nd):

So I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Yep.

REP. BOUKUS (22nd):

Yes.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

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Will you remark further, Representative Boukus.

REP. BOUKUS (22nd):

Not at this time.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Okay.

Will you care to remark further on the bill  
before us?

Representative Boukus.

REP. BOUKUS (22nd):

Again, Madam Speaker, the Clerk has in his  
possession -- we haven't taken action on it.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

We did 5514, which is "A".

A VOICE:

Both.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Okay.

All those in favor of Senate Amendment  
Schedule "A" signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

All those opposed, nay.

The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted.

Will you care to remark further on the bill as  
amended?

Representative Boukus.

REP. BOUKUS (22nd):

I would, Madam Speaker. Everyone just take a quick breath, and here we go.

We -- the Clerk has in his possession LCO 5607. May he call it and I be allowed to summarize?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Will the Clerk please call LCO Number 5607, previously designated Senate "B".

THE CLERK:

Senate "B", LCO 5607, introduced by Senator Fonfara et al.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize.

Is there objection? Objection?

Seeing none, Representative Boukus.

REP. BOUKUS (22nd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, this amendment adds a few extra to the bond package, and I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The question before the Chamber is on adoption of Senate Amendment Schedule "B".

Will you remark further?

REP. BOUKUS (22nd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Before I remark, may I just take a moment.

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There are so many people in this Chamber and outside this Chamber to thank for all the work -- the hard work that went into this bonding package. I'm not going to read all of these names because of the lateness of the hour. But I can't tell you from the bottom of my heart how much it has been a pleasure to work with all of you on this.

I must, though, reflect on Representative Floren who has been there from the get-go. And through all the changes, and all the requests. We are so pleased to have such a strong voice for all of us in the Chamber. And she can be counted upon to work with agencies, remember what they said, and then make decisions on whether or not we should work with them. So, again, I just want to thank everyone.

This is the bond bill. We do it annually. This bill includes changes in either language -- Senate Amendment "B". This provides bond authorizations for many of the state agencies and state programs. Some of them include repairs that we've seen around our building. Some of them are new housing for veterans. Some include a fire training school. Some of it is e-books for all our public libraries. Open space is something that's near and dear to all of us, and this is also provided for. There are also our colleges on every

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level. Also, there is dredging, dollars for our ports and for our marinas. It's a great bill, and it ought to pass. Thank you. The amendment, that's better, and I move adoption. And it's 11:10 at night.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

And we will move adoption.

Will you care to remark further on Senate Amendment Schedule "B"?

Representative Floren.

REP. FLOREN (149th):

Thank you so much, Ms. Speaker.

These interim modifications to the biennial bond bill were made after three full days of testimony from department commissioners who sought budget or program adjustments. And the deliberations and the meetings that followed were conducted in a truly bipartisan way under the leadership of Representative Betty Boukus.

Now Betty is always fair and balanced, although not in the Fox News sense of the word.

REP. BOUKUS (22nd):

That was good. That was good.

REP. FLOREN (149th):

I love working with her. She's the best.

Betty explained what was in this bill primarily. And I -- I will say that I understand

and appreciate that some of my colleagues are going to say that S.B. 29 is taking more and more money to support the government in the manner in which it has become accustomed. I get that.

However, as my very, very esteemed Republican leader would say, "Not for nothing." There is another way to look at bonding. I like to see it as paying it forward, benefiting future generations of Connecticut residents with improved infrastructure and mass transportation, better educational opportunities for students of all ages, more jobs, better jobs, and a protected environment, cleaner air, cleaner water, and preserved open space.

This was a bipartisan bill. It was done thoughtfully. It's a cost-effective document, and I urge adoption of S.B. 29.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you.

Will you care to remark further on Senate Amendment "B"? Will you care to remark further on Senate Amendment "B"?

Representative Wood. Senate "B".

REP. WOOD (141st):

Great. Thank you, Madam Chair.

I also stand in very strong support of this bonding package. I think, as Representative Floren

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said, it is about paying it forward and investing in our capital structure. Many thanks to Representative Boukus for all her work on this. And I do have to talk about one specific project that's very near to so many of our hearts in here, and that's the preserve in Old Saybrook. It's 1000 acres of maritime forest that we're going to preserve in perpetuity. And a chance like this comes once in a lifetime, so I am in very strong support of this, and I urge our colleagues to support this. So, thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you, madam.

I will remind the Chamber that we are on Senate Amendment Schedule "B". Will you care to remark on Senate "B"?

Representative Belsito. Did I pronounce that right, sir?

REP. BELSITO (53rd):

Thank you, Madam Chair,

Could you just speak to the bond maker, and give us the total amount of this bond? I haven't seen that.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Is that a question to the proponent of the bill?

REP. BELSITO (53rd):

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Yes, yes, it is. I'm sorry.

Through you.

I don't know who to ask. Sorry about that.

REP. BOUKUS (22nd):

Through you, Madam Speaker.

The approximate value is about 960 million.

REP. BELSITO (53rd):

I'm sorry. Could she say that again, Madam  
Chair?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Boukus.

REP. BOUKUS (22nd):

Through you, Madam Speaker, \$960 million.

REP. BELSITO (53rd):

Thank you very much.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Belsito.

REP. BELSITO (53rd):

Thank you very much, Madam Chair -- Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Will you care to remark further on the --  
Senate Amendment "B"? Will you care to remark  
further on Senate "B"?

If not, let me try your minds.

All those in favor, please signify by saying  
aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

All those opposed, nay.

The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted.

Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Will you care to remark?

If not, staff and guests please come to the Well of the House. Members take your seats, the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll.

The House of Representatives is voting by roll.  
Will members please report to the Chamber immediately.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted?

If all members have voted, please check the board to determine if your vote has been properly cast. If so, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally. Please.

And will the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill 29, as amended by Senate "A" and Senate "B" in concurrence with the Senate.

Total Number Voting

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Necessary for Passage	73
Those Voting Yea	136
Those Voting Nay	8
Those Absent and Not Voting	7

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The bill passes as amended in concurrence with  
the Senate.

Will the House stand at ease.

(Chamber at ease.)

(Speaker Sharkey in the Chair).

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 497?

THE CLERK:

On Page 27, Calendar 497, favorable report of  
the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations,  
Substitute Senate Bill 229, AN ACT CONCERNING SUDDEN  
CARDIAC ARREST PREVENTION.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's  
favorable report, and passage of the bill.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

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(Senate at ease.)

SENATOR LOONEY:

Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

If the Clerk would now call Calendar page 14, Calendar 441, Senate Bill 29.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page 14, Calendar 441, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 29, AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER PURPOSES, favorable report of the Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding. There are amendments.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon, Senator Fonfara.

SENATOR FONFARA:

Good afternoon, Madam President. Good to see you this afternoon.

THE CHAIR:

Same here, sir.

SENATOR FONFARA:

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Madam President, I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Motion is on acceptance and passage. Will you remark, sir?

SENATOR FONFARA:

I will, Madam President. The Clerk is in possession of an amendment, LCO 5514. May he please call and I be permitted to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 5514, Senate "A" offered by Senators  
Fonfara, Stillman, et al.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Fonfara.

SENATOR FONFARA:

I move adoption, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

The motion is on adoption. Will you remark?

SENATOR FONFARA:

I will, Madam President. Madam President, the document before us, the amendment before us reflects many hours of hard work on the part of a number of people to produce the capital budget proposal for FY '15. After many hearings and meetings and sitting through countless hours and sifting through materials submitted by agencies, legislators, and the public, this is the document that has been agreed upon and presented here to the Senate. It represents the recommendations of the Governor and Legislators, the

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hard work of Chairman of the -- Senate Chairman of the Bonding Subcommittee, Senator Andrea Stillman, and the House Representative Betty Boukus, both of whom have done yeoman work in terms of getting this document prepared for us for consideration today, as well as the Ranking Member Senator Boucher and Representative Floren in the House as well.

This is a bipartisan document in many ways. I'd also like to thank my co-Chair, Representative Widlitz, the Senate Bonding Subcommittee Chair, Senator LeBeau, and Representative Fawcett, and Ranking Members Representative Floren and Senator McLachlan as well as Senator Boucher again and Representative Scribner who also have done great work in putting -- helping us get this to this point. On our staff is Manny Merisotis, Ken Saccente in the House, Anne Carol, of course, Linda Miller in OFA, Rute Pinho in OLR, Ben Barnes, Steve Kitowicz, and Gian-Carl Casa in OPM.

Madam President, this bill makes a number of investments on the capital side in order to improve the quality of our state, making us more competitive as a state, making us more environmentally positive. It provides funding for urban development projects statewide for the Capital Region Development Authority to continue its momentum in housing and economic development in downtown Hartford, for the very successful Step Up Program additional funding, for investments in the state's advanced manufacturing businesses, additional funding for economic development in manufacturing assistance in general.

It provides for a small business loan assistance, particularly in urban centers and minority communities. It provides additional funding for port improvements and dredging, and additional funding for Bridgeport, Stamford, New Haven, Old Saybrook, Westport, and (inaudible). It provides additional funding to promote homeownership in our urban areas, particular in Hartford, New Haven, Bridgeport, New London, and New Britain. It provides funding for town aid road, very important in this very difficult year for our roads after one of the toughest winters we have experienced in a long time.

It increases the URA tax credit which has proven to be

very successful in investing in-urban areas in our state. In the area of education and research, Madam President, it increases funding and consolidates programming for the state's university system under the board of regents as well as consolidates and provides funding for (Inaudible) College and our community colleges throughout the state. It revamps the stem cell research program and creates the new Regenerative Medicine Research Fund, expands beyond stem cell, and also increases activity or supports activity that will not just do research but also research that will move from -- from the bench to the bedside, if you will.

It provides for a ten-year program for many towns throughout the state to increase their abilities to provide for pre-K, entitled the Smart Start Program. It will provide funding to advance and assist schools in developing the Common Core implementation. Additional funding for (Inaudible) initiatives in the Hartford area as well.

In the area of public health and safety, Madam President, there is additional funding, an expansion of who is eligible, which entities are eligible in the area of school safety. There is also funding for fire training schools and additional funding after a very successful two years with respect to non-profit health and human service organizations and assistance for those organizations who do great work on behalf of the State of Connecticut.

In the area of environmental highlights, there is funding to purchase the property in Old Saybrook known as the Preserve, a wonderful and truly historic place in the State of Connecticut that we'll be able to protect for all time. Additional funding towns to be assisted in terms of drinking water systems and improving those systems, additional funding for shoreline resiliency, for businesses and homes that may be in the -- face the potential or have been impacted by storms recently to help them rebuild. There is funding for -- to provide information technology and efficiency improvements in the Office of Governmental Accountability, additional funding for information technology across many agencies to make them more efficient and user friendly.

And lastly, Madam President, information technology improvements for users of this technology, permitting licenses and paying taxes so they don't have to get into their cars to drive in order to access services and perform various activities involving state government. That's the highlights of the bill before us, Madam President. Most importantly I think it's important to note that we are well below the requirements of the soft cap which is 90 percent of the allotted funding that we can -- we can commit to in terms of capitalization.

But within that, we are enabling not only the State of Connecticut but cities and towns throughout this state, public and private initiatives in terms of growth as a state, economically, in terms of the quality of life of our state, in our schools, in our environment, in our public health, and so many other ways that this document reflects the priorities of this Legislature and of our Governor in advancing the interests of our state. I urge passage of the amendment, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark?

Senator Stillman. Good afternoon, ma'am.

SENATOR STILLMAN:

Good afternoon, Madam President. How are you today?

THE CHAIR:

Fine. And yourself?

SENATOR STILLMAN:

I am well. Thank you. I rise in support of this amendment. This -- first of all I want to thank Senator Fonfara for his -- for the overview he has given of this bill. This is our annual bond bill that comes before the Senate and then on to the House. It touches on so many parts of not just government but improving the quality of life here in the State of

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Connecticut. I want to thank Senator Fonfara and Representative Widlitz for their leadership as the Chairs of the Finance Committee. I want to thank Representative Boukus as my co-Chair on the Bonding Subcommittee, and all the members who have participated in the Bonding Subcommittee to help write the bill that is before us today.

There are a couple of things I would like to highlight as well in this bill. One of them is a request that we had received to create and maintain a statewide platform of distribution of electronic books to our public libraries. That's a project that's very important to so many people but obviously very important in terms of access for books. Today, as we all know, so many fine literary works are -- can be found electronically and many people are using their electronic devices, their i-Pads and other types of computers in order to read books today. So that's \$2.2 million for that which I think is a very important project.

I'm very pleased that the Governor was able to come to an agreement with the surrounding communities where the Preserve is. The Preserve is 1,000 acres of natural forest here in Southeastern Connecticut. It's a project that the people in my district hold dear to them and have been hoping for years that we would have an opportunity to save that very valuable natural resource. It's the only land of that kind in that immense acreage that is available on the Coast and will, of course, benefit the people of not just Southeastern Connecticut but the State in its entirety as they utilize that property. And so I appreciate the Governor understanding and working with the Natural Heritage Trust to set aside \$2 million so that together with the State and the surrounding towns that that land can be purchased for everyone to use.

There's another important project in here for the Connecticut State colleges and universities. CCSU, the Connecticut State system has now come to an agreement on a plan to authorize -- we are now being able to authorize some bond money so that their plan to create a better infrastructure for those state colleges can move forward. All in all it's a comprehensive bill, one that I urge the members of the

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Circle to support. And I thank you very much, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark?

Senator Frantz. Good afternoon, again, sir.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Good afternoon, Madam President, great to see you once again. And let me start by saying that based on my cursory review of the amendment language, there isn't one bad project in here. And, in fact, even if you're looking at the underlying bill, there isn't one bad project in that underlying bill as well. And there are champions sitting around this Circle of 36 of us who are doing yeoman's work to try to bring back what we can to our districts in terms of resources and other things that may help our constituencies, and doing this all in the interest of bettering the lives of every single person in Connecticut here in the State Senate.

We're doing our job. There's no question about it. And those of you who might have still been awake last night at about 1:15 in the morning when I was speaking about the whole concept of Democracy and how it is undoubtedly the best form of government in the world, has served mankind extremely well, but it's also the most expensive. And it's one that creeps up over the course of time, and when you've been in existence for 237 -- 238 years, it does become almost unaffordable especially if you haven't been keeping a close eye on your fiscal house and making sure that you don't have spending that is running out of control in any sense of the word.

So given all of that, I would make a plea that all of us think twice. I know this amendment is going to pass. I know this underlying bill will pass and it will probably be pretty close to unanimous, but I've been making this plea for about six years in the Circle and also publicly, we really, really need to keep our eyes focused on what our debt levels or bonded indebtedness levels are, never mind our long

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term liabilities many of which are underfunded and some completely unfunded. And we have to continue to have a conscience, a fiscal conscience, otherwise we're going to -- we're going to shoulder the next generation with way too much debt.

We are in an incredibly low interest rate environment right now. The demand for fixed income and (inaudible) bonds, (inaudible) bonds, et cetera, is huge at this point. And the market will absorb these bonds, but at some point they might not and that's when we don't want to have too many bonds outstanding and we don't want to give the next generation and subsequent generations that burden going forward. So I won't vote against this amendment, I may or may not vote for the underlying bill, I just wanted to stand and make sure, Madam President, that everybody takes at least a second look before casting their vote this afternoon on the amendment as well as the bill. Thank you very much.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark? Will you remark?

If not, Mr. Clerk, will you call for a roll call vote on Senate "A". The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.  
Immediate roll call on Senate "A" is ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

If all members have voted, if all members have voted, the machine will be closed. Mr. Clerk, will you give the tally.

THE CLERK:

On Senate Amendment Schedule "A".

Total Number Voting	33
Necessary for Adoption	17
Those voting Yea	26

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Those voting Nay	7
Those absent and not voting	3

THE CHAIR:

Senate "A" passes.

The Senate will stand at ease for a moment.

(Senate at ease.)

The Senate will come back to order.

Senator Fonfara. Okay.

The Senate come back to order. We're on the bill now and will you remark? Will you remark?

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you, Madam President. Thank you very much.

What I'll do is I'll keep my remarks short because I basically made all the points I do want to make today on the discussion -- in the discussion of the amendment. Now that we're on the underlying bill the numbers should be added up and should be either clear in your mind or presented to you which I will do. The underlying bill is \$505.5 million in new indebtedness, bonded indebtedness to the State of Connecticut. In the amendment we're adding approximately 140 for a total of \$645 million in the stroke of a pen, well a little more than a stroke of a pen, but some deliberation here this afternoon and obviously preparation. And thank you to all the staff members, Mary Finnegan, Bill, everybody else, that had everything to do with putting this -- this package together.

But very quickly we will be obligating the State to an additional \$645 million here this afternoon or this evening. If you add that to the previously -- the previous authorizations, bonding authorizations for

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fiscal year 2005, we are now at a what I consider a whopping \$2.25 billion in new bonding authorizations. For a small state which represents roughly one and-a-half percent of the population of the population of the United States of America, and we're 3.6 million people with a budget of \$19 billion. That strikes me as a lot and it's something that I know we all have the best intentions in our heart and we're spending money and investing money in all these wonderful areas, but it's getting to be to the point where it's going to be very, very difficult to be able to service this debt going forward if we continue to do this and especially in the context of some of the unfunded liabilities, long-term liabilities that we have.

So before hitting the green button or hitting the red button as perhaps more a statement than anything else, I would want everybody to pause and think about what we are doing to the next generation. Again there's no ill harm in this bill, in his bonding package whatsoever. We're all trying to do the very best we can for every citizen of the State of Connecticut and for future generations by making infrastructure investments and education investments. But there is a price tag at which we simply cannot afford to do it because we're not growing fast enough as a state, we're not growing fast enough in population, in our GDP, in our job growth, in all sorts of different areas as we went over two nights ago when we had our big budget discussion -- or three nights ago I should say. With that, Madam President, I will now leave it to others. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark?

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

I rise for a few questions to the proponent of the bill.

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Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

Senator Fonfara, one of the contentions that I have had in the Appropriations Committee is moving appropriated expenditures into bonding. For example, capital or ongoing expenses, things that are typically budgetary items moved to bonding issues. Through you, Madam President, are there anything -- anything to that affect that are taking place in this package that may have been moved from previously appropriated or in the budget to now in bonding? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Fonfara.

SENATOR FONFARA:

Through you, Madam President. One that I recall and that is the (Inaudible) program that a number of our towns support strongly for capital investments in cable television, public access programming, something that we because of our budget situation in the last few years were not able to fund on the operating side. Frankly, it probably should have been on the capital side all along because it is primarily equipment that is used, and that has been moved over to the capital side in this initiative.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

Actually when it comes to equipment, I as you know am in the mobile electronics business, and technology just changes so rapidly, I think we're going to be looking at the i-Phone 6 pretty soon. And I make

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light, but in reality you can imagine how fast . . . technology changes. I don't know if I necessarily agree with putting technology in bonding because it does change so rapidly. Can you speak to how much that figure is? Through you, Madam President. I think it's five million, seven million, somewhere in that range, through you?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Fonfara.

SENATOR FONFARA:

Thank you, Madam President.

I believe it is approximately 3.5 million.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

On line 66, state library, and it says creation and maintenance of a statewide, and I just lost it, platform for distribution of electronic books to the public library patrons, \$2.2 million. Would that be considered another one? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Fonfara.

SENATOR FONFARA:

Through you, Madam President, that is the -- enabling the state library system to allow individuals to access through technology books and other programming. As you know, more and more people are going towards online services as it relates to library services and this will allow for across our state for libraries and the state library to be able to coordinate that activity. Clearly again a technology oriented investment bringing us into a more modern era in how

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we communicate and, frankly, how people access information through books. It's no longer to the degree it was where individuals go to the library to their card and take out a book. It still happens, but more and more people are using the internet to access books. And this will allow the state library and individual libraries to be able to -- be able to participate in that. Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

When you say give them the ability to participate in that, is that computers, is that hard drives, is there physical products? I mean it's not like we're going on Amazon and buying books. Can you -- can you explain to me the actually -- what we're bonding. And I understand the program and I get that, it makes sense. I'm just trying to understand the physicality of it. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Fonfara.

SENATOR FONFARA:

Through you, Madam President. To the best of my recollection it is, again, hardware and software purchases to allow this to go forward. It is not, as I understand it, purchasing of actual books themselves as Senator Kane has inquired about.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

How about in line 158, for the purpose of the State

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Comptroller, grant in aid to the Connecticut Public Broadcasting Network for transmission, broadcast production, and information technology equipment not exceeding \$3.3 million? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Fonfara.

SENATOR FONFARA:

Through you, Madam President, yes, this is a fairly regular commitment that we've made as a State to the Connecticut Public Broadcasting system. It involves the use of transmission equipment, broadcast equipment, high definition upgrades, production equipment upgrades, and information technology, the fiber communication network, et cetera, firewall and security upgrades. Again all technology related for the Connecticut Public Broadcasting System that they will -- they intend to make over the next two or three years. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

I believe in Connecticut Broadcasting or public broadcasting I should say. Just as an aside, is that something that we are required to do by federal law or is that something we choose to do with our funding? Through you, Madam President.

SENATOR KANE:

Senator Fonfara.

SENATOR FONFARA:

Through you, Madam President, I believe it's part of a long-standing commitment we as a Legislature has made to the Connecticut public broadcasting effort here in the state.

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THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR FONFARA:

Thank you, Madam President.

I don't want to get into the whole Mitt Romney had with Sesame Street, you know, that was in the past I guess. In line 174, Connecticut Manufacturing Innovation Fund, that too looks like advanced technology for research, development, machining, and advanced composite materials, if you could speak to that. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Fonfara.

SENATOR FONFARA:

Through you, Madam President, overall this initiative is to support suppliers primarily of advanced manufacturing in the way of aerospace and defense. As Senator Kane knows, in the Circle we passed a major initiative this year as it relates to Pratt and Whitney and UTC and related companies, as well as last year a major commitment to the University of Connecticut among many things including STEM. So this State has taken a major step forward in embracing the future, something that Connecticut is well positioned for. But there are a number of suppliers who still use dated technology in their ability to compete not only within the State of Connecticut but nationally and internationally.

And this initiative is designed to help to support those companies in doing research on how they can become more competitive, in how they are able to build products, design products not only for Pratt and Whitney and UTC, but in our defense areas as well. So it's a specialized investment. In addition, a subset of that, Senator Kane, is an effort to, in the area of composites which is the next wave of technology advancement, and this is an area that there are people

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who believe Connecticut could really make a mark in and grow an industry in terms of jet engine production and other areas. Part of this money will go towards doing research in the area of composites to put Connecticut on the map in a very exciting field that is just beginning to emerge nationally and internationally. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

I always appreciate Senator Fonfara, he gives extremely detailed answers to my questions and certainly knows the ins and outs of this bonding package as Chairman of the Finance Committee. Just a couple more if I might because I -- on lines 326, 327, and 328, heck you could go to 329, it looks like these are highway bridge renewal equipment, local bridge program, Merritt Parkway, things like that. Are those typically done in the special Transportation Fund or are those always bonded? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Fonfara.

SENATOR FONFARA:

Through you, Madam President, often done through bonding here in the GO. Part of the reason for that, and you'll see it, Senator Kane, as it relates to town aid road in particular, there is a federal requirement when using special transportation bonds that limits how much of that can be done for using operation monies, five percent limit I believe it is. If we do some of this that where towns are being assisted through -- through special transportation, and we don't know exactly how they will use those dollars, some of it will be for planning, some of it will be operations, it would bump up against that limit. We would exceed that five percent limit and, therefore,

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they would not be tax exempt bonds and the cost would be much greater to the towns and to the State of Connecticut. So by moving them under them under the GO, doing them as a GO bond, because the package is so much greater, we do not bump up against the five percent. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

Moving on to line 436, which is section 24 in the Office of Early Childhood, for the newly-funded Smart Start Program which I believe is part of that pre-K program that we all voted for, it talks about the purpose of a competitive grant program established by Senate Bill 25 as I mentioned. So this portion, this paragraph in the underlying bill, is that to establish bonding for this grant program? Is that how we're going to pay for that grant program, through bonds? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Fonfara.

SENATOR FONFARA:

Thank you, Madam President.

I want to first thank Senator Kane for explaining what area it is because I don't have numbers on my bill and I would never find it in the time allowed. Maybe that would be good for right now, but I thank you sir for explaining the area that you're inquiring about. The Smart Start Program is a bifurcated program where there are dollars on the operating side or the appropriation side as well as the capital side. This portion speaks to the capital investment where school systems are in need of expanding or modifying a classroom for pre-K and maybe they don't have the resources to do that. They will have to make a capital commitment as well, but this will support that

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initiative-and move us further down the line in terms  
of trying to achieve universal pre-K in our state.  
Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

My pleasure. I always, you know, if you're going to have to answer a question, you should know where it's coming from, right. So, of course, I appreciate the work on this. In lines -- this may be standard, I don't know having -- not having served on the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, but in lines 544, it talks about the State Bond Commission shall have the power from time to time to authorize issuance of bonds of the State in one or more series of principal amounts not to exceed the aggregate of one point -- \$1.3 billion. And that is bracketed out and underlined \$1,439,487,540. That certainly is a significant change and is that because of additions in this bill or is that standard? Just -- if you could just speak to the additions. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Fonfara.

SENATOR FONFARA:

Through you, Madam President, I believe the gentleman is speaking about the so-called soft cap that we are -- we're not required, but the Governor is required if we were to exceed that to notify us about cancellations. And that number is a function of our overall revenues that are projected and as is it relates to our indebtedness. And right now my understanding is we are at 87 percent of that 90 percent soft cap. Through you, Madam President.

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Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

This soft cap, as you -- as you call it, is that something that we as a legislative body established some time ago? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Fonfara.

SENATOR FONFARA:

Through you, Madam President, it was part of the income tax initiative back in I believe '91, I believe the soft cap came in '93. And incidentally, for the edification of the Chamber, and I know Senator Kane has not -- hasn't asked this question, but following the implementation of the income tax and then the cap on bonding, the -- we became much stricter at the level of bonding that -- capital investment that we could enable. Prior to that it was -- we did not come anywhere near the level of the percentage of debt to the revenues because there was no cap. When we implemented the cap, we have consistently been in the 80, sometimes 70, 80 percent range on average for the last -- since 1993. And as I said the -- currently we are at 87 percent. Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

And I guess I'll have two follow ups to that, one of which would be, and I don't expect you to know all the way back to 1992, but certainly as your time on the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, how much growth we've seen in that. I know you've said it's bounced from 70 percent to 80 percent and here we are at 87 percent. So that would be my first question

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about the growth over the -- over this period of time. And the secondly is that 90 percent the actual cap and is that in statute as well? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Fonfara.

SENATOR FONFARA:

Through you, Madam President, I do not know the answer to the gentleman's first question but, yes, the cap, 90 percent is in statute. Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

I thank Senator Fonfara for answering my questions. Certainly there is a lot to digest in this package. I always have a concern when it comes to the moving of expenses and I would call them whether they be capital expenses or operating expenses, something that we budget for in the Appropriations Committee in our -- in our biennium budget. Moving them to bonding because it's not unlike you and I paying our bills with credit cards and then having to pay off that credit card long-term with interest rates that are attached to it. I would much rather see us appropriate for that line item and pay that off as opposed to have -- to cost us more in the long run.

Now I understand cash is tight for all of us whether it be ourselves and our own personal budgets, whether it be small businesses, and certainly the State of Connecticut having difficulty. We just saw just a week or two ago how our revenues dipped by over \$400 million because of lower than anticipated income tax certainly as well as sales tax and corporate tax among others. I know that we should be paying attention and very mindful of our expenditures. So I will listen to the remainder of the debate, but I still have some

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concerns as Senator Frantz mentioned about how we are doing and what we are doing in regards to this issue.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark? Will you remark?

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Madam President.

Thank you, Senator Fonfara, for bringing forth both the bill and amendment. I always take a breath and have to pause when the bonding package comes before us because the numbers are large, but they also represent a lot of good projects. And I also have to take a breath because these large numbers aren't necessarily obligations that the people in this room will be completely paying back, in fact, it will be the next generation in a lot of cases. But a lot of these projects are for the next generation so I am thankful for that. And I'm a little disappointed to see some money moved from Transportation to General Obligation. I can understand that, but, Madam President, I have to get a new strut in my car and that's because we had a really rough winter and we've had a lot of potholes and it's been rough driving the last few months. And it's taken its toll on all of us, not just the weather but the roads.

And so I would like to see as many of those roads repaired as fast as possible and I think by moving a little bit from STO to GO, that's something I wish we didn't have to do nonetheless, again, a lot of good projects. We talked about a few of them earlier in a dialogue between Senator Kane and Senator Fonfara, didn't realize the Connecticut Broadcasting Network money was in here as well, a little bit surprised to see that. I am concerned any time we have something that I think is more of an operational expense as opposed to a hard expense being bonded. That is a concern to me. But unlike Mitt Romney, I am a big fan of Big Bird and many of the other programming

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especially on public radio which I happen to listen to a lot. And I don't know if that's a confession that I've made for the first time here in this Circle, but I'm a big fan of public radio.

So I will be supporting this package. Again, thank you, Senator Fonfara and Senator Stillman and everybody else who worked hard to crunch the numbers and make these things work by dotting I's and crossing T's. Thank you, Madam President, for your time.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark? Will you remark?

If not, the Senate is going to stand at ease.

(Senate at ease.)

The Senate is going to come to order for points of personal privilege at this time.

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Thank you, Madam President.

It's such a joy to have students who are so public minded and public spirited. And we have five students here today from Daniel Hand High School. I'm from Gilford and Hand High School has been beating Gilford, so but they're not here on sports. They're here, colleagues, because they care about a bill that we've had that still has not passed. And it's a bill that would prohibit smoking in cars with young children. And you may remember that that has been a bill that Representative Henry Genga has introduced in past years, although not this year. But they're -- the students are asking us to bring this bill back next year. It's a good bill. It's a bill that the Environment Committee supports. It's very good for health, it's good for kids, and I just want to thank these students for caring about their young children, and caring about smoking hazards, and would you all

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THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

And also, Mr. President, we would move that all of the items on Senate Agenda Number 1 be placed on our Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So moved.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On Page 14, Calendar 441, Substitute of Senate Bill Number 29, AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER PURPOSES. Favorable report of the Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding. Senate "A" has been adopted.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Fonfara.

SENATOR FONFARA:

Mr. President, I move for acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

On acceptance and passage.

Will you remark, sir?

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SENATOR FONFARA:

Yes, Mr. President, thank you.

This bill was before us earlier, it's before us again. It's been amended and Mr. President, the Clerk is in possession of LCO Number 5607. May he please call and I be permitted to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Senate will stand at ease.

(Chamber at ease.)

THE CHAIR:

Senate will come back to order.

Mr. Clerk did you call the amendment?

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 5607, Senate Amendment Schedule "B" offered by Senators Fonfara, LeBeau, Stillman, et al.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Fonfara.

SENATOR FONFARA:

Mr. President, I move adoption, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

On adoption.

Will you remark, sir.

SENATOR FONFARA:

Yes, Mr. President.

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Mr. President this amendment makes certain adjustments and additions to the underlying bill including some additional revenues for freight rail improvements, adds additional towns including Norwalk and Stamford for homeownership improvement and conversions and some additional language fixes for the preserve initiative in Saybrook. I urge passage, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Will you remark further on the amendment? Will you remark further on the amendment? Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Yes, thank you, Mr. President.

I rise with a question for the proponent, Senator Fonfara.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Through you, Mr. President.

Senator, the amendment is brand new to me and I completely understand the need for the refinement in the language but in terms of the amounts, I don't have my HP12C with me tonight on the floor. I was wondering if you knew what the total amount, if there is an incremental addition, to the amount of bonding that's allocated here. If there is a number that we could -- just a ballpark number would be helpful for the Chamber, through you, Mr. President?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Fonfara.

SENATOR FONFARA:

Through you, Mr. President, I believe in the

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- neighborhood of \$20 million. Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Okay. Thank you. That's \$20 million, not the end of the world, but still we have to be cognizant of how we are adding to our overall borrowing demand here in this fiscal year of 2015. Thank you very much.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Will you remark further on the amendment? Will you remark further on the amendment?

If not, I'll try your minds.

All those in favor, please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

All those opposed nay.

The ayes have it.

Senate "B" is adopted.

Will you remark further on the bill as amended? Will you remark further on the bill as amended?

If not, Mr. Clerk, please announce a roll call vote. The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.  
Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.

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THE CHAIR:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? If all members have voted, please check the board to make sure your vote is accurately recorded. If all members have voted, the machine will closed and the Clerk will announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill Number 29 as amended.

Total Number voting	36
Necessary for adoption	19
Those voting Yea	30
Those voting Nay	6
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

The bill as amended passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, before calling for a recess for caucus to prepare other items, we have two additional items, two items to place on a Consent Calendar for later this evening. The first, Mr. President is Calendar 526, House Bill 5556. I move to place that item on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**FINANCE  
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FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING  
COMMITTEE

March 13, 2014  
10:30 A.M.

CHAIRMEN: Representative Widlitz  
Senator Fonfara

VICE CHAIRMEN: Senator LeBeau  
Representative Lemar  
Representative Sanchez

MEMBERS PRESENT:  
SENATORS: Frantz, Ayala, Boucher,  
Cassano, Fonfara, LeBeau,  
Leone, McLachlan, Musto,  
Witkos

REPRESENTATIVES: Williams, Altobello, Aman,  
Arce, Becker, Berger,  
Boukus, Buck-Taylor,  
Butler, Candelora, Davis,  
Fawcett, Frey, Hennessy,  
Johnson, Larson, Lemar,  
Lopes, Luxenberg, Morin,  
Mushinsky, Piscopo,  
Rebimbas, Reed, Rojas,  
Santiago, Sawyer, Simanski,  
Srinivasan, Stallworth,  
Steinberg, Walko, C.  
Wright, E. Wright, Zoni

REP. WIDLITZ: Good morning everyone and welcome to  
the public hearing for the Finance Committee.  
Our first invited speaker is our budget  
secretary -- Governor's budget secretary,  
Secretary Ben Barnes.

Ben, good morning.

SECRETARY BENJAMIN BARNES: Good morning, Chairman  
Widlitz, Chairman Fonfara, members of the  
Finance Committee. It is always a pleasure to  
be here.

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SB29  
SB367  
SB368  
HB5048

I am going to be very brief in my opening remarks and take any questions that you have.

We are -- I am here to ask for your favorable action on several of the Governor's bills, including Senate Bill 28, AN ACT CONCERNING REVENUE ITEMS TO IMPLEMENT THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET; Senate Bill 29, AN ACT AUTHORIZING ADJUSTING BONDS FOR THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION, AND OTHER PURPOSES; and House Bill 5048, AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CHET BABY SCHOLARS PROGRAM -- my favorite program name in all of Connecticut state government -- and finally, I am going to offer a little bit of testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 368, which is not one of the Governor's bills.

I will speak a little about the major provisions in Senate Bill 28, which reflect the changes to the revenue package that the Governor has recommended. Senate Bill 28 includes implementation of a tax refund program for \$155 million out of the tax revenues from Fiscal '14 that would be paid out in the late summer, early fall of 2014. It includes an exemption for municipalities from the insurance premiums tax -- saving money, about 8.7 million dollars in 2015 for local governments. It includes an exemption for nonprescription drugs, which we value at \$16.5 million in 2015. As you recall, we added the sales and use tax onto nonprescription drugs in response to the budget crisis in 2011, and we have proposed a phase-in of an exemption for -- a partial exemption for teachers' pension payments. That would cost \$23 million in Fiscal '15, and we have proposed extending the Angel Investor Tax Credit for two years, at a cost of \$3 million. All told, the impact of our revenue proposals

on state revenues would be \$155 million in 2014, that would be a reduction in budget surplus. And, in 2015, a reduction of \$51.3 million compared to the consensus revenue in January.

I am happy to take any questions on that, but let me just quickly review the Senate Bill 29. It includes all of our adjustments to the bond package. Those have been -- I think all have been reviewed by the bonding subcommittee and the agencies involved. I am certainly happy to review -- answer any questions about those particular items here today.

Senate Bill 368 -- I'm sorry -- House Bill -- forgive me -- 5048, the ACT ESTABLISHING THE CHET BABY SCHOLARS PROGRAM allows us to use a pool of funds, \$12 million, from the -- as part of the reconstitution of Connecticut Student Loan Foundation. These are assets of that foundation that have been generated through its now-defunct lending activities. They still a portfolio of performing loans. They have, actually, net assets well in excess of the \$12 million, but we believe the \$12 million is available in cash right away. We are proposing moving that into a fund in the treasurer -- in control of the Treasurer with which he can fund, for at least several years, possibly in perpetuity, a program that matches parents of young children's initial contributions to 529 accounts. It would allow us to -- we would provide an initial \$100 payment to open an account. Obviously, the parents would have to sign up and provide relevant information and take action. We would make that first \$100 payment and provided that the parents make a \$150 payment in the first four years, we would match that as well. That means we would put in 250 to their 150. That \$400 we think, while it

like to invite Alexis Piechowski to come up and testify.

Welcome, Alexis. Would you like to just state your name for the record and -- and give us your testimony, please.

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ALEXIS PIECHOWSKI: Good afternoon, members of the Finance Committee. I'm Alexis Rose Piechowski, and I attend Sacred Heart School in New Britain. I am a U.S. citizen, and even though I don't pay taxes, but my parents do, they chose Sacred Heart School for my sister and me because it was the best choice for us.

Our tax dollars go to the State of Connecticut, but are not used for our education because our parents pay for school. There has been a lot of violence in different schools, and it's up to you to decide in how to protect the children. I feel that you should give us the same protection as you do for those in public schools. There is no difference between me or any other child in a public school. We are all scared as children. We should have the same security, or we should be given the same amount of funds as you will provide the public schools with, no exceptions. We are the future voters and it doesn't matter what school we attend. If anything, the Catholic schools should always be included on everything because their parents, not only pay for school their child attends, but they also pay taxes, and their tax dollars are used for other children and not their own kids. I think it is time for you to include all schools into the school security funding. Thank you for letting me speak today.

REP. WIDLITZ: Thank you very much for coming here and sharing your thoughts with us. Your parents should be very proud of you, and your

school should be very proud of you for making your opinions known to all of us. And I think you've made a very interesting point that your parents do pay taxes that support our public schools, and they're paying private tuition for you, so it's something for all of us to think about, and I thank you very much for taking the time to be here with us today.

Are there any questions from committee members or comments?

Okay. Thank you very much for your testimony. You're going back to class now?

Okay. Next to testify, Ebony Forand, followed by Amy McKearney and then Bruce Carlson.

AMY MCKEARNEY: Hello and thank you all for taking the time to serve the State of Connecticut. My name is Amy McKearney, and I currently have two children, Kelly and Megan, that attend Saint Mary Magdalene School. My youngest will follow suit and start school in the fall when she's old enough.

SB29

I grew up in Newtown, Connecticut, and currently live in Thomaston, Connecticut. A few reasons why I am here today are because of the events that unfolded on December 14, 2012, and the funding that has already been distributed to the public schools for security improvements because of the events in Newtown.

I grew up and I did not have lockdowns or to practice them, we didn't have cameras or police presence either. We did not worry about our safety while in school. Children today should be able to feel safe, secure and protected while attending school.

Since Governor Dannel Malloy has announced public school grants of over \$15 million, this is a clear message to me that the Governor supports safety in school for all children.

After December 14, 2012, I was happy to see so many schools react quickly to modify the schools to protect our children. My children's schools made significant progress on building a safer environment by adding video cameras, bulletproof windows, and improving the entrance to protect the staff and the children. I am very appreciative on the nursing and transportation services entitlements to all the school children in Connecticut. Those services go a long way to help our schools and families. Now it is time to have safety be a priority to all Connecticut school children, too.

I am humbly asking you to please support Bill 29 and allow our Catholic schools access to the security grants funding available to public schools in Connecticut, to have Connecticut safety -- school safety be a priority, as well. Thank you.

REP. WIDLITZ: Thank you very much for waiting to give your testimony. We appreciate having you here today and your daughter's.

Are there any questions or comments?

Thank you very much.

AMY MCKEARNEY: Thank you.

REP. WIDLITZ: Ebony Forand, followed by the Bruce Carlson.

16368 EBONY FORAND: Thank you committee members for having me here today. My name is Ebony Forand.

ROGER SENSERRICH: -- so all families can have that account.

REP. WIDLITZ: Thank you very much for pointing out the differences. It's always interesting to see what other states do and -- and how we can improve our own proposals, but you're -- it's -- so what you're saying is that our proposal is for parents to take the initiative to set up the CHET account whereas, in other states, it's automatically done for child who is born there.

Okay.

ROGER SENSERRICH: Correct.

REP. WIDLITZ: Any -- any questions or comments?

Thank you very much for your testimony, interesting.

Mary Roberts, followed by Thomas Moran and John Ivimey. Sorry, if I'm mangling the names.

MARY ROBERTS: Good afternoon, Senator Fonfara, Representative Widlitz and distinguished members of the committee. My name is Mary Roberts, and I am the director of the Federation of Catholic School Parents.

I have the honor of representing 113 Catholic schools across the state of Connecticut and 30,000 students in attendance of these schools. I am asking today that you amend the subsection 9 of Senate Bill 29 to allow Catholic and private schools access to the security grant funds made available to public schools. Today, I share the 113 Catholic schools support for an amendment to this section.

We applaud Governor Malloy's and the General Assembly's hard work in 2013 on the School Security Grant Program of section 84 of Public Act 13-3. Going forward, we respectfully request, on behalf of the Catholic Schools of the state of Connecticut, that the law be amended to allow our schools access to these school safety and security funds. Thank you for your consideration.

REP. WIDLITZ: Thank you very much for your testimony.

Are there questions?

And I noticed -- I'm sure you noticed you had some very nice support this morning from some young people which was very nice to have them here. Thank you.

Thomas Moran, followed by John Ivimey and Nicholas Paindiris.

THOMAS MORAN: Senator Fonfara, Representative Widlitz and members of the Finance Committee, my name is Thomas Moran, and I am in eighth grade at Saint Timothy Middle School in West Hartford. I am here to testify in support of SB 29, and to ask that funds for school security be made available to Catholic schools.

Due to the tragedy at Sandy Hook School, security has become a major priority at schools in Connecticut and nationwide. SB 29 includes funds for grants to schools so that they can improve their security procedures. I am asking that Catholic schools be allowed to apply for these grants. My school, Saint Timothy Middle School, spent more than \$50,000 this past summer to improve security. The school bought security cameras, monitors, new door locks and

a new notification system. We're not able to purchase new textbooks for some classes due to safety priorities. I believe that wherever I attend school, whether Catholic or public, my classmates and I deserve to be safe. The safety of all Connecticut students should be important to all of you.

The State helps Catholic schools to provide nursing and bussing services. I think that school security is just as important. All students deserve a safe learning environment regardless of where they attend school. It's important in Catholic -- it is important that students in Catholic and other nonpublic schools have the same security as students in public schools.

I respectfully urge you to -- to support SB 29 to allow our Catholic schools access to the security grant funding available to public schools in Connecticut. Please help us keep all schools safe, including Saint Timothy Middle School. Thank you.

REP. WIDLITZ: Thank you for coming today and giving your testimony.

Representative Becker.

REP. BECKER: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Thank you very much for coming in today. I think you spoke very well. You should be very proud of yourself and proud of participating in the process in coming in here and giving us your thoughts, so thank you very much for coming in.

THOMAS MORAN: Thank you for having me.

Thank you very much --

NICHOLAS PAINDIRIS: Thank you.

REP. WIDLITZ: -- for your testimony.

Carolyn Malon, followed by Craig Peters and  
Christina Inferrera.

CAROLYN MALON: Good afternoon, Representative  
Widlitz, Senator Fonfara, members of the  
Finance Committee, whoever's left. My name is  
Carolyn Malon, and I'm the parent of two  
Catholic school students. I'm here to testify  
in support of SB 29 and to request that the  
bill be amended so that funds for school  
security be made available to Catholic and  
other nonpublic schools. SB 29 includes an  
amount up to \$10 million which will be  
allocated for grants to schools in Connecticut  
for the purpose of security upgrades. I'm here  
to request that this grant funding be made  
available to Catholic schools and other  
nonpublic schools, as well.

Many Catholic schools in the state are  
struggling financially. A good number of them  
are in intercity areas. At the same time as  
they're struggling financially, the principals  
at these schools recognize the importance of  
maintaining a safe learning environment for  
their students and understand that there will  
be significant financial costs to make  
upgrades. These school leaders realize that  
they have to make the difficult choice of  
cutting other areas of spending in order to  
protect their students.

The State of Connecticut has a proud history of  
providing funding to Catholic schools for vital  
services, such as transportation and nursing

staff. I believe that school security is just as vital. And as my dad who just showed up pointed out, we -- we provide -- municipalities provide police and fire services to -- to all schools regardless of whether they're public institutions. Catholic schools are at the same risk level for security breaches as students in public schools. Shouldn't the safety of all schools be our -- students be our priority?

All students deserve a safe learning environment regardless of where they attend. It is my firm belief that the legislators of the state of Connecticut have a moral obligation to ensure that students in Catholic and other nonpublic schools have the same security as the students in our public schools.

I urge you to support SB 29, and further, to please allow our Catholic schools to access this vital funding for security upgrades. Please help us to keep all of Connecticut's students safe. Thank you for being here today and listening.

REP. WIDLITZ: Thank you very much for your testimony.

There -- you will see committee members, just for everyone's information, you'll see committee members coming and going here --

CAROLYN MALON: Oh, I know. There --

REP. WIDLITZ: -- all of us serve on several committees and there is a lot going on in the building today, but people will be -- we do have written testimony. It's online, as well, and so we do our best to try to be everywhere.

CAROLYN MALON: Madam Chair, I meant no respect.  
I --

REP. WIDLITZ: Oh, I -- I understand that.

CAROLYN MALON: -- I was judging, I actually am  
testifying in another committee here --

REP. WIDLITZ: Right.

CAROLYN MALON: -- and it's across the hall, so I'm  
headed over there.

REP. WIDLITZ: Then, you understand. --

CAROLYN MALON: -- on another issue so thank you for  
time.

REP. WIDLITZ: Okay. Representative Becker.

REP. BECKER. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

And I'll be quick so you can get to your other  
hearings. I know that's got to be an -- and I  
actually have got a meeting I have to go to,  
we're voting on some bills right now, too.

So, Carolyn, good to see you today. Thanks for  
coming in. You and your son make quite the  
dynamic mother-son duo, and make a strong case  
for the bill that you came in on, so thank you  
so much for coming in and teaching your  
children the importance of being involved in  
our government.

CAROLYN MALON: Thank you.

REP. WIDLITZ: Craig Peters, followed by Christina  
Inferrera and Representative Fred Camillo.

Our stakeholders, such as Clean Energy, USA Hauling, All-American Waste, Yellow Cab, AT&T, just to name a few, have invested millions of dollars on compressed natural gas stations and hundreds of vehicles. It should not be penalized by doing the right thing by reducing our dependence on imported oil and lowering emissions.

And so I just want to make clear that this is not a request for an exemption from any tax. It merely provides the proper calculations of the tax to be imposed, and we request that it mirrors the federal government's formula.

And in my written testimony, you'll see supporting documentation: IRS Form 720 is there and the United States Department of Energy's Fuel Property Comparison sheet is there as well, and also the Department of Revenue Services regulation is also attached to this written statement. If you have any questions, I'll be more than happy to answer them for you.

REP. WIDLITZ: Thank you very much. It's very helpful to have this additional information in explaining why we're making this change.

Are -- are there any questions?

Okay. Thank you very much.

CRAIG PETERS: Thank you.

REP. WIDLITZ: Christina Inferrera, followed by Representative Fred Camillo and Tim Bolton.

CHRISTINA INFERRERA: Good afternoon, Senator Fonfara, Representative Widlitz, and distinguished members of the Finance. My name

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is Christina Inferrera. I'm a service coordinator for South Park Inn, an emergency shelter in Hartford, as well as the vice chair of the North Central Regional Mental Health Board.

I am here to support SB 29, AN ACT AUTHORIZING ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER PURPOSES. This proposal increases the funding available for private nonprofits, which have been flat funded for over 15 years. In this challenging economy, money for our agency and similar nonprofits -- profit have been increasingly difficult to come by, while demand for our services remains high. Facilities, such as South Park Inn, run at full capacity with limited financial support from our state. For example, during this winter of the polar vortex, one of the coldest seasons on record, Governor Malloy called upon shelters to take in any and all individuals that may have been exposed to these extreme weather conditions. South Park Inn along with many other local shelters met this challenge and ran significantly over capacity to meet this demand.

Referrals to our shelter come from many state agencies, such as DSS, DMHAS, DCF and area hospitals. Despite their large budgets and vast resources, these agencies turn to private nonprofits, like South Park Inn, to fill the gaps and meet the needs of their clients and patients. The State of Connecticut has begun to prioritize more funding for mental health services. Shelters have been overlooked in this assessment, while the reality is that we are one of the first points of contact for individuals suffering from mental health

conditions that find themselves experiencing homelessness.

In 2013, over 37 percent of persons staying at South Park Inn reported they had been diagnosed with some form of mental illness.

Collaborative interventions by South Park Inn and local psychiatric providers have ensured that these individuals receive appropriate treatment, ongoing support, and achieved greater stability and well-being as members of our community.

I urge the committee to support this bill and invest in the nonprofit agencies that provide much needed services to the citizens of Connecticut. Thank you for this opportunity to testify and for your careful consideration in this matter.

REP. WIDLITZ: Thank you very much for your testimony and also for all the good you -- work you do. It's very beneficial to the people of the state of Connecticut.

Are there any questions?

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN: Just some -- more of a comment but thank you for coming to testify, and I do appreciate the -- the good work that you and others do. I'm very familiar with South Park Inn. And I think Senator Fonfara might have even prepared a gourmet meal there once or twice in his career. But, it's -- I --

SENATOR FONFARA: If I could, Madam Chair, I -- I watched you prepare it. I -- I peeled the potatoes, as you know.

REP. MORIN: But -- with all kidding aside, we do appreciate the good and important work that -- that you do and -- and certainly will take your testimony into consideration.

CHRISTINA INFERRERA: Wonderful. Thank you very much. I thank you for coming here and providing you.

REP. WIDLITZ: Is Representative Fred Camillo in the room?

REP. CAMILLO: Thank you. Good afternoon, Representatives -- Senators Frantz, Fonfara, Widlitz -- Representatives Widlitz and Williams. I want to thank you for raising bill -- Senate Bill 368 and for the opportunity to speak.

This bill, which would phase out the hospital tax, was something that came up about four years ago which we helped defeat back then, but it came back again two years ago and it passed, unfortunately. And some of the things we warned about came true. My hospital, Greenwich Hospital, was telling us that they were going to have to cut some programs, programs for people that really needed these things -- the Center for Healthy Living, and one for Integrated Medicine -- and that's exactly what happened. Not only did they have to cut those programs, which were for free for the citizens, but also they had to lay off a lot of people. And, you know, it's one thing to sit here and, you know, say well, I told you so, but it's something I wish I didn't have to say. And I think this bill here is a prudent and measured and cautious way to eliminate it. It phases it out gradually over five years.

Tracy Heim, followed by Kristine Lisi and Jeremiah Grace:

TRACY HEIM: Good afternoon, Senator Fonfara, Representative Widlitz and the other members of the Senate Finance. My name is Tracy Heim, and I'm here on behalf of myself -- who's a parent of three students at Saint Rose of Lima School in Newtown -- our principal, Mary Maloney and all of the parents and staff at our school. I appreciate this opportunity to offer my comments in support of amending Section 9 of Bill 29,

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We applaud Governor Malloy and the General Assembly for their hard work in 2013 on the School Security Grant Program in section 84 of Public Act 13-3. Going forward, we are respectfully requesting, on behalf of all the Catholic schools in Connecticut, that the law be amended to allow schools to access grants for school safety and upgraded security measures.

On December 14, 2012, the Saint Rose of Lima School community was directly impacted as a result of the shooting incident at Sandy Hook School.

Students in grades kindergarten through grade eight were attending a 9 a.m. mass in church that morning. The school secretary received a message from her child's school that they were in lockdown due to a random shooting in the town of Sandy Hook. She had a teacher relay the message to the principal, who called for a lockdown in the church, and informed the preschool to initiate a lockdown as well. Parents and parishioners were also in attendance at mass that morning.

Through the advice of local police, teachers then moved the children from the church back into the main school building for a more secure location to continue the secure lockdown. The lockdown was changed to a soft lockdown around noon. 175 students in the upper grades were not permitted to go to the portable classrooms and, therefore, remained in the multipurpose room of our school and in other main classrooms.

I was one of three parents present that day, and we assisted where and when we could. A telephone call indicating that Saint Rose of Lima School would be next resulted in a second lockdown. Police were contacted by the parish secretary and they arrived on campus to investigate the source of the call. When advised by police, the lockdown was changed to a soft lockdown again at around 2 p.m. and students were preparing for dismissal.

While preparing the students to go home, Newtown police received another message that there was a problem in a Saint Rose kindergarten classroom. Police stormed our building with weapons drawn. Middle school students were in the hallways and walking between the portable classrooms as police entered the main school building to find the kindergarten classroom.

The school went into a third lockdown that day. Once all cleared after 3 p.m., Newtown police worked with our local bus company to have a special dismissal time for our students.

Due to the high publicity and press exposure and nine funerals taking place at our church, it was decided that the school needed to be

closed for the week of December 17th through the 21st, and we did not reopen until January 2, 2013.

When the school buildings reopened, teachers and students received minimal counseling services through the town. Student and teacher emotions have escalated during -- due to unknown triggers and flashbacks. Teachers were provided opportunities at meetings to express their concerns about feeling safe, as well as caring for the students. Parents were and continue to be very emotional about the safety measures and lack of similar security at the public schools -- excuse me -- as the public schools. They are seeking a great deal of counseling as well.

Due to funds not being available to the school, only a minimal amount -- minimal amount of counseling was provided immediately following the incident. The school has experienced intermittent surfacing of posttraumatic stress symptoms in students, teachers and our parents.

Our principal, Mary Maloney, has been engaged in the Newtown Security Committee meetings, Newtown Prevention Council meetings and with Jo Ann Freiberg, an educational consultant with the State Department of Education to gather information and recommendations with regard to hardening our facilities.

Due to budget constraints, the Town of Newtown will not include Saint Rose's School in -- within the provision of an officer on-site for each for each of the public schools in our town. A significant portion of our school community finds the presence of police on campus to be comforting, and we are looking into our options pertaining to this service.

In addition, Newtown will not provide -- will also not provide provisions for a security guard at the nonpublic schools in our district. First Selectwoman, Pat Llodra, proposed a onetime grant which we ultimately received a \$50,000 to use for security purposes.

Five of the children -- five of the children killed had attended Saint Rose preschool. The teachers currently working at the preschool had these children in their classes. One of the first grade victims is an older sibling of one of our current preschool students. One of the adult victims is a sister to a preschool staff person and was my daughter's teacher at that time. Three of the victims were children of older students that our -- that our school -- that were caregivers for these children, and many of our lower grade students were friends or played sports with these kids. Teachers and administration -- administrators, obviously, had professional relationships with school psychologist, Mary Sherlock. And our buildings are shared with our parish community and more than 1,200 Newtown students are educated in our school buildings Sunday through Wednesday.

It is without a doubt that grant funding and town allocations have been a tremendous asset to the socioeconomic -- social, emotional and building safety needs to our school. Knowing the important impact that these grant funds have on our school, the efforts to improve communication with Town of Newtown officials and collaborating -- collaborative efforts of the public and nonpublic schools has had in Newtown. I applaud and appreciate that Bill 29 is being proposed. Thank you.

REP. WIDLITZ: Thank you. I can appreciate how difficult it is to revisit those memories, and

certainly, that's a day that all of us will -- it's changed all of our lives and the way we look at things. So we do appreciate your testimony, and I think you've made a very poignant case for your -- for funding.

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR MCLACHLAN: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Thank you, Tracy, for being here today. And, on behalf of all the legislators, we appreciate, I think, all that you've been through, and we're thankful that the Catholic schools came out today to talk about this program and -- and how -- how important it could be.

How many students -- how many full-time students at Saint Rose of Lima in Newtown?

TRACY HEIM: We have just under 400 currently.

SENATOR MCLACHLAN: And -- and I -- I heard you say that over 1,000 are public school students that are in the school for --

TRACY HEIM: Religious Ed for the parish, yes.

SENATOR MCLACHLAN: Yeah, yeah. Has the school parents' group thought about trying to figure out how to fund security on their own? I know that the schools in Danbury have thought about trying to figure out how to do that, and if so, have you come up with what it's going to cost to privately raise the money?

TRACY HEIM: Well, without going into so many of the particulars because we're -- we're actually very guarded about what we've done to fortify our campus, we just feel it's best not to share

that information. But there have been things that have been done all through private donation, you know, family generosity, parish contributions, as well. And it -- it's difficult because we -- the amounts of -- of work that needs to be done in order to get our -- get our campus to a place where all of our parents and students are feeling comfortable. It's going to cost. You know, it's -- it's more than we can handle. We've been doing fundraising ongoing for the -- I'm -- actually work in the development office -- we've been doing ongoing fundraising since the -- since last year, and it's just -- it's just not making things -- it's just not meeting our needs right now.

SENATOR MCLACHLAN: Right. And you have a big campus, a school that I'm involved in is considering some security upgrades and it's well above \$100,000 just for a relatively small building in comparison to what you have. Well, listen, we're very thankful for your work on behalf of the parish and the school and thank you for your patience and coming today.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

REP. WIDLITZ: You're welcome.

I do have one follow-up question. I'm sorry I don't know the answer to this, but the funds that were donated to the Town of Newtown, funds came pouring in from all over the world, were you able to access any of those funds to provide security for your students?

TRACY HEIM: I can't speak, specifically, but my understanding is that the funds -- when someone makes a donation to a particular charity and there were a number of them that were set up

following the events of December 14th, when they're earmarked for a specific purpose, it can only be used for that specific purpose, and most often those funds were specifically for the community of Sandy Hook and that is, you know, that's outside of our --

REP. WIDLITZ: Okay. Thank you very much and thank you very much for your testimony.

Thank you.

Kristine Lisi, followed by Jeremiah Grace.

KRISTINE LISI: Good afternoon. My name is Dr. Kristine Lisi, and I am the medical director at Saint Vincent's Health Center, which is the clinic run by Saint Vincent's Medical Center. I am here to support Senate Bill 368, AN ACT PHASING OUT THE HOSPITAL TAX.

I am grateful to do my job. It is an honor and a privilege to serve the people who -- in Bridgeport who are some of the poorest in the community.

Our mission at the Saint Vincent's Family Health Center is to care for the poor and the underserved. We had 25,000 visits last year alone. The patients we serve are largely people without insurance or who are uninsured or have Medicaid. We serve as a primary care facility for so many in this community.

The whole healthcare system is strained right now, and the hospital tax makes it worse.

Every day I see patients in our clinics for follow-up after a hospital admission. Many of these patients have severe medical conditions and are discharged on medications that need to

for the 2.68 percent increase in expenditures, which was driven mainly by debt service, health and contractual wage increases. Your approval of this correction will enable us to pass a fair and balanced budget and to begin to chart the course of fiscal stability. I urge you to pass this bill. Thank you.

REP. WIDLITZ: Thank you for your testimony. I'd say if you were here earlier, you may have heard Secretary Barnes also give support for this and that this was not envisioned the way it would work by when we passed the original legislation, so hopefully we get to fix this quickly.

DARYL JONES: Great, thank you.

REP. WIDLITZ: You're welcome.

Any comments?

Okay. Thank you.

Martin Tristine, followed by Robert Fishman and Mark Pruner then Victor Santos.

Good afternoon

MARTIN TRISTINE: Good afternoon. Senator Fonfara, Representative Widlitz and other distinguished members of the committee, my name is Martin Tristine, and I am the assistant to the superintendent of -- for the Catholic schools for the Diocese of Bridgeport. I am testifying in support of the Governor's Bill 29 and, specifically, section 9(e)(2), for the purposes of the School Security Infrastructure Competitive Grants Program established pursuant to section 84 of Public Act 13-3.

As a consequence of the terrible tragedy at Sandy Hook School in Newtown, Connecticut residents are painfully aware of the need to protect our children while they are in the care of our educational institutions. Many towns in Connecticut have made funds available to enhance security at their public schools in an effort to address their citizens' concerns about their children's safety. Unfortunately, Catholic schools have not been included in this public funding. While we have adopted new policies to improve security and have made some investments in improving security, our schools available resources, particularly in our inner city schools in Bridgeport, limit our ability to do all we need to do in light of recent school intrusions and will require several years to achieve the level of security our children deserve.

Considering that there are 113 Catholic schools in the state, serving almost 30,000 students, this is a major concern. Our Catholic school students are certainly deserving of the same protections that their public school counterparts are receiving. Our school families, many of whom are not Catholic, trust that their tax dollars will be used to provide the same protection to their children that the government has extended to public school students. Our families contribute the same tax dollars to fund public schools as do public school students' families even though our families do not attend public schools.

In the past, the Connecticut legislature recognized the fairness of including private schools for bus transportation and school nursing. The protection of all our citizens is the most important and basic responsibility of government and should not be provided based on

a school being public or private. The Catholic schools of Connecticut are an integral part of the state's education system, saving state boards of education over \$400 million each year. The security of our children should not be determined by where they go to school, it should be determined based on their constitutional right for fairness and the protection of their government.

Thank you.

REP. WIDLITZ: Thank you very much for your testimony.

Are there questions?

Okay. Thank you very much for being here with us.

MARTIN TRISTINE: Thank you.

REP. WIDLITZ: Robert Fishman, followed by Mark Pruner, Victor Santos and Bonnie Stewart.

Good afternoon, Bob.

ROBERT FISHMAN: Good Afternoon. Representative Widlitz and members of the Committee, I represent the Jewish community on this, as well as many other issues, and we appreciate, of course, what the Governor has proposed but does not include nonpublic schools. And so, in our case, we have 20 Jewish day and high schools in Connecticut. Not as many students as the Catholic schools and not as many schools, but since 2001, with the tragedy of 9/11, Homeland Security and the FBI often send us periodic alerts cautioning the Jewish community to be aware of attacks on our Jewish institutions.

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There have been incidents of terror attacks in Los Angeles, in Seattle, where people were killed, and also New York. The federal government has established a nonprofit security assistance program for years now, and they do not see this as a test of separation of church and state, but rather security, and therefore, we hope that Connecticut would see it in the same light that security is an issue where all our children should be protected.

So it is that section 9(e)(2), we're asking to add the word -- words "private or nonpublic" to public schools gaining the opportunity for these competitive grants for school security. And as has been mentioned, the State has provided bus transportation and some nursing and other specialized services, such as occupational, physical and speech therapy, to parochial schools. So it seems reasonable this should be included, as well, for public safety issues. And I thank you for your time.

REP. WIDLITZ: And thank you for being here this afternoon and giving your testimony.

Are there questions?

Okay. Thank you.

REP. WIDLITZ: Next is Mark Pruner, followed by Victor Santos, and Bonnie Stewart.

Good afternoon.

MARK PRUNER: Good afternoon, Representative Widlitz, Senator Frantz, members of the Committee. I am Mark Pruner. I am a real estate agent in Greenwich, Connecticut, and I'm here to testify in support of SB 367, AN ACT CONCERNING THE GIFT AND ESTATE TAX.

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South  
Park Inn

helping homeless people,  
help themselves

p. 9  
line 22

**In Support of SB 29, AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER PURPOSES.**

Christina Inferrera, Service Coordinator, South Park Inn, Inc. and Vice-Chair of North Central Regional Mental Health Board

Senator Fonfara, Representative Widlitz, and distinguished members of the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee, my name is Christina Inferrera, Service Coordinator for South Park Inn Emergency Shelter in Hartford, as well as the Vice-Chair of the North Central Regional Mental Health Board.

I am here to support S.B. 29, an act authorizing and adjusting bonds of the State for capital improvements, transportation and other purposes. This proposal increases the funding available for private non-profit agencies, which have been flat funded for over fifteen years.

In this challenging recession, money for our agency and similar non-profits has been increasingly difficult to come by, while demand for services remains high. Facilities such as South Park Inn Emergency Shelter run at full capacity, with very limited financial support from our state. For example, during this winter of the "polar vortex", one of the coldest seasons on record, our Governor Malloy called upon shelters to take in any and all individuals that may have been exposed to these extreme weather conditions. South Park Inn, along with many other local shelters, ran significantly over capacity in order to meet this demand.

Just last year, the State of Massachusetts spent over \$60 million in placing homeless families in temporary motel settings. Just imagine what Connecticut shelters would be able to do with additional funding as proposed by S.B. 29. At South Park Inn we provide a multitude of services to assist individuals and families as they transition out of homelessness and into self-sufficient housing.

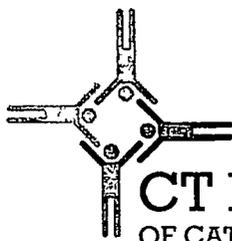
Referrals to our shelter come from many state agencies such as DSS, DMHAS, DCF, and area hospitals. Despite their large budgets and vast resources, these agencies turn to non-profits like South Park Inn to fill in the gaps and meet the needs of their clients and patients. (In light of the events that transpired at Sandy Hook), the State of Connecticut has begun to prioritize more funding for Mental Health Services. Shelters have been overlooked in this assessment, while the reality is that we are one of the first points of contact for individuals suffering from mental health conditions that find themselves experiencing homelessness. In 2013, over 37% of all persons that stayed at South Park Inn reported that they had been diagnosed with some type of mental illness. Collaborative interventions by South Park Inn and local psychiatric providers have ensured that these individuals received appropriate treatment, ongoing support, and achieved greater stability and well-being as members of our community.

I urge the Committee to support this proposal, and invest in the non-profit agencies that provide much needed services to the citizens of Connecticut. Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and for your careful consideration of this matter.

Street Outreach ▪ Emergency Shelter ▪ Transitional Living ▪ Supportive Housing

75 Main Street ▪ Hartford, Connecticut 06106  
Tel. (860) 724-0071 ▪ Fax. (860) 724-1692 ▪ [www.southparkinn.org](http://www.southparkinn.org)

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**CT FEDERATION**  
OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARENTS

Mary C. Roberts  
Director

Testimony of Tracy Heim  
CT Federation of Catholic School Parents  
Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding  
March 13, 2014

Senate Bill 29. "An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements, Transportation and other Purposes."

Good Morning, Senator Fonfara, Representative Widlitz and other distinguished members of the Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding, my name is Tracy Heim and I am a member of the CT Federation of Catholic School Parents, I am here on behalf of both myself, a parent of three students at St. Rose of Lima School in Newtown, and our Principal, Mary R. Maloney. I appreciate this opportunity to offer my comments in support of amending Section 9 of Bill 29, *An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements, Transportation and other Purposes.*

We applaud Governor Malloy and the General Assembly for their hard work in 2013 on the School Security Grant Program in Section 84 of Public Act 13-3. Going forward, we are respectfully requesting on behalf of the Catholic schools, that the law be amended to allow our schools to also access grants for school safety and upgraded security measures

On December 14, 2012, the St. Rose of Lima School community was directly impacted as a result of the shooting event that occurred at Sandy Hook School.

Students in Grades Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade were attending 9am Mass in the Church. The school secretary received a message from her child's school that they were in lockdown due to a random shooting in the town of Sandy Hook. She had a teacher relay the message to the principal who called for a lockdown in the Church and informed the Pre-School to initiate a lockdown as well. Parents and parishioners were also in attendance at the Mass that morning. Through the advice of local police, teachers moved the children from the Church back into the main school building, a more secure location, to continue a secure lockdown. The lockdown was changed to a soft lockdown around noon 175 students in the upper grades were not permitted to go to the portable classrooms and, therefore, remained in a soft lockdown in the large multi-purpose room of our school and some main school classrooms. The Pre-School morning session was dismissed after normal hours and the afternoon session was told not to report. I was one of three parents present in the building that day; we assisted where and when we could.

A telephone call indicating that St. Rose of Lima School "would be next" resulted in a second lockdown. Police were contacted by the parish secretary and they arrived on campus to investigate the source of the call. When advised by police, the lockdown was changed to a soft lockdown at around 2pm and students began to prepare for dismissal. Parents were allowed at that time to come to the main school entrance building to begin picking-up their children.

While preparing students to go home, Newtown police received a message that there was a problem in the St. Rose of Lima School Kindergarten classroom. Police stormed the building, with weapons drawn. Middle school students were in the hallways and walking between the portable classrooms and as the police entered the main school

building to find the Kindergarten classroom. The school went into the third lockdown of the day. Once all cleared (after 3pm), the Newtown police worked with the bus company to have a special dismissal time and procedure for the students.

On Monday, December 17, a meeting was called for all teachers, staff and administrators to meet with counselors from Catholic Charities and local Catholic high schools. Teachers were fearful to enter the building. Very emotional, large and small group sessions were conducted all day. Teachers were invited to attend a Newtown session with teachers and administration from the public schools at noon and made the drive to Newtown High School only to learn that the program changed and that planned sessions had concluded. Teachers returned to our school to continue additional discussions independent of the other schools staff and administrators. It was determined that an event was needed to allow the teachers and students to get together prior to Christmas. The Newtown Youth Academy offered a playroom for a couple of hours for students to gather together and play. In addition, lunch and counseling took place with teachers, parents and students. Students even broke out into spontaneous Christmas carols.

Due to the high publicity, press and the nine funerals taking place at the Church, it was decided that the school was to be closed the week of December 17<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup> and did not reopen until January 2, 2013.

When the school buildings re-opened, teachers and students received minimal counseling services through the town. Student and teacher emotions have escalated due to unknown triggers and flashbacks. Teachers were provided opportunities at meetings to express their concerns about feeling safe as well as caring for students. Parents were and continue to be very emotional about the safety measures and lack of similar security as the public schools. They are seeking a great deal of counseling assistance as well. Due to funds not being available to the school, only a minimal amount of counseling was provided immediately following the incident. The school has experienced intermittent surfacing of post-traumatic stress symptoms in students, teachers and parents.

Our Principal, Mary Maloney, has been engaged in the Newtown Security Committee meetings, Newtown Prevention Council meetings and with Jo Ann Freiberg, an Educational Consultant with the Connecticut State Department of Education to gather information and recommendations with regard to hardening the facilities and creating safety plans.

Due to budget constraints, Newtown will not include St. Rose of Lima School within its provision of an officer onsite for each of the public schools in our town. A significant portion of our school community finds the presence of the police on campus to be comforting and we are looking into our options pertaining to this service. In addition, Newtown will also not provide provisions for a Security Guard at the non-public schools located in the district. First Selectwoman, Pat Lodra proposed a one time grant of \$50,000 to all non-profit elementary schools in Newtown. The proposal was approved and the non-public schools received \$50,000 to use for security purposes.

#### St. Rose School Connection to Victims

Five of the children killed had attended St. Rose of Lima Pre-School. The teachers currently working at the Pre-School had these children in their classes. One of the children killed, Olivia Rose Engel, was an older sibling of a current Pre-School student. One of the adult victims, Anne Marie Murphy, is a sister to a Pre-School staff person and my daughter's teacher at the time. One of the adult victims, Vickie Soto, was a dear friend of one of the elementary school teachers. Three of the victims were children that older students at our school were hired as child sitters for. Many students in Grades 1 through 4 were friends or played sports with the Sandy Hook School children who lost their lives. Teachers and administrators had professional relationships with School Psychologist, Mary Sherlock. Our buildings are also shared with the parish community. More than 1,200 Newtown public school students are educated in our school buildings Sunday through Wednesday.

#### Current Situation

St. Rose of Lima School is currently benefiting from a SERV grant that was submitted by The Town of Newtown in the spring of 2013. The grant enables the school to provide a full time school counselor for our students in Grades Kindergarten through grade 8 for the period August 2013- August 2014. It is hopeful that renewal of services will take place through the SERV grant for the school year 2014-2015. In addition, our school is currently benefiting

from a possible grant from the Department of Justice, Victims of Crimes as a result of the Town of Newtown agreeing to allow our school to be included in the grant. The decision was made due to the fact that all children in Newtown needed to be provided the same security protection and post-traumatic professional services.

Proposed Senate Bill 29

It is without a doubt that the grant funding and town allocations have been a tremendous asset to the social-emotional and building safety needs of our school. Knowing the important impact that these grant funds have on our school, the efforts to improve communication with Town of Newtown officials, and the collaborative efforts of the public and non-public schools has had in Newtown, I applaud and appreciate that Bill 29 is being proposed.

*I respectfully request that*

-The Senate Bill 29 be amended to allow non-public and Catholic schools be allowed to access the grant sent forth in Section 9.

-Prior to approving the proposed Bill 29, the inclusion of language that ensures an equitable grant application process for all schools, public and non-public, and that the percentage of funding for a town be reflective of a student-based percentage that reflect equitable funding for security and professional services of all schools, public and non-public.

-In addition, provisions in Bill 29 should reflect the importance of including non-public schools in emergency exercises, developing municipal emergency plans, identifying and implementing district-wide security measures and needs assessments.

Such language in Bill 29 will ensure that all school administrators, whether public or private, are provided the ability to offer a safe school environment and are accountable to ensure the safety and well-being of the students who attend their school.

Respectfully, we ask that you amend Section 9 of Senate Bill 29 to allow Catholic and Private schools access to the school security grant funds available to the state's public school systems.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tracy Heim  
CT Federation of Catholic School Parents  
St. Rose of Lima School Parent, Marketing & Development Consultant  
Newtown CT 06470

p. 8  
lines 14

Mary C. Roberts  
Director

Testimony of Mary C. Roberts  
Director of CT Federation of Catholic School Parents

Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding  
March 13, 2014

Senate Bill 29. *"An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements, Transportation and other Purposes."*

Good Morning, Senator Fonfara, Representative Widlitz and other distinguished members of the Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding, my name is Mary Roberts and I am the Director of the CT Federation of Catholic School Parents. I appreciate this opportunity to offer my comments in support of amending section 9 of Bill 29, *An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements, Transportation and other Purposes*.

I have the honor of representing the 113 Catholic schools in the state of Connecticut, with 30,000 students in attendance and more than 2,000 dedicated teachers, administrators and employees working at our schools. We also have hundreds of volunteers helping us promote and enhance our educational and community service programs. In January, a certain town in CT had its public schools go into lockdown because a person with a gun was walking back and forth in front of one of the schools. The Catholic School in this town was not notified and it is across the street from where the person with a gun was spotted. Thankfully, the students were inside at an assembly, but had it been a nicer day, they would have been at recess and at risk for harm. As a parent of future Catholic school students, I want to ensure that my children are able to learn in a safe and nurturing environment, and I believe that supporting an amendment to Section 9 of Bill 29 does just that.

We applaud Governor Malloy and the General Assembly for their hard work in 2013 on the School Security Grant Program in Section 84 of Public Act 13-3.

Going forward, we are respectfully requesting on behalf of the Catholic schools, that the law be amended to allow our schools to also access grants for school safety and upgraded security measures (we have attached a proposal below).

Respectfully, we believe that improved safety of all school students –regardless of where they may go to school– should be a collective goal for the state of Connecticut. In our proposal below, we are requesting that if

a Catholic School spends a certain amount to improve its security, then up to 50% of that expenditure would be eligible for reimbursement from the State Fund. This will give our schools the assistance they need to ensure that every student, staff, faculty member and visit is in a safe space, where learning not fear is the main objective. Please amend Section 9 of SB 29 to allow Catholic and Private schools access to the school security grant funds available to the state's public school systems.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our proposed amendment, below.

Mary C. Roberts  
 Director  
 CT Federation of Catholic School Parents

**PROPOSED JFS AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 29 →**

Sec. 9. (e) For the Department of Education:

- (1) Grants-in-aid for alterations, repairs, improvements, technology, equipment and capital start-up costs, including acquisition costs, to expand the availability of high-quality school models and assist in the implementation of common CORE state standards and assessments, in accordance with procedures established by the Commissioner of Education, not exceeding \$10,000,000;
- (2) For the purpose of the school security infrastructure competitive grant program established pursuant to section 84 of public act 13-3, not exceeding \$10,000,000, **which will be available to private schools pursuant to section X of this act.**

**Section X. (Effective from Passage). Section 84 of Public Act 13-3 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:**

- (a) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2013, to June 30, 2015, inclusive, the Departments of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Construction Services and Education shall jointly administer a school security infrastructure competitive grant program to reimburse **private schools and** towns for certain expenses for **private schools and for** schools under the jurisdiction of the town's school district incurred on or after the effective date of this section for: (1) The development or improvement of the security infrastructure of schools, based on the results of school building security assessments pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, including, but not limited to, the installation of surveillance cameras, penetration resistant vestibules, ballistic glass, solid core doors, double door access, computer-controlled electronic locks, entry door buzzer systems, scan card systems, panic alarms or other systems; and (2) (A) the training of school personnel in the operation and maintenance of the security infrastructure of school buildings, or (B) the purchase of portable entrance security devices, including, but not limited to, metal detector wands and screening machines and related training.
- (b) On and after the effective date of this section, each **private school and each** local and regional board of education may, on behalf of its town or its member towns, apply, at such time and in such manner as the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection prescribes, to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection for a grant. Prior to the date that the School Safety Infrastructure Council makes its initial submission of the school safety infrastructure standards, pursuant to subsection (c) of section 80 of this act, the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, in consultation with the Commissioners of Construction Services and Education, shall determine which expenses are eligible for reimbursement under the program. On and after the date that the School Safety Infrastructure Council submits the school safety infrastructure standards, the decision to approve or deny an application and the determination of which expenses

are eligible for reimbursement under the program shall be in accordance with the most recent submission of the school safety infrastructure standards, pursuant to subsection (c) of section 80 of this act.

(c) **A private school may receive a grant of up to fifty percent of its eligible expenses.** A town may receive a grant equal to a percentage of its eligible expenses. The percentage **for a town** shall be determined as follows:

(1) Each town shall be ranked in descending order from one to one hundred sixty-nine according to town wealth, as defined in subdivision (26) of section 10-262f of the general statutes, (2) based upon such ranking, a percentage of not less than twenty or more than eighty shall be assigned to each town on a continuous scale, and (3) the town ranked first shall be assigned a percentage of twenty and the town ranked last shall be assigned a percentage of eighty. If there are not sufficient funds to provide grants to all towns **and private schools** based on the percentage determined pursuant to this subsection, the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, in consultation with the Commissioners of Construction Services and Education, shall give priority to applicants on behalf of **private and public** schools with the greatest need for security infrastructure, as determined by said commissioners based on school building security assessments of **the private schools and of the schools** under the jurisdiction of the town's school district conducted pursuant to this subsection. Of the applicants on behalf of such **private or public** schools with the greatest need for security infrastructure, said commissioners shall give first priority to applicants on behalf of **private or public** schools that have no security infrastructure at the time of such school building security assessment and succeeding priority to applicants on behalf of **public** schools located in priority school districts pursuant to section 10-266p of the general statutes. To be eligible for reimbursement pursuant to this section, an applicant board of education **or private school** shall (A) demonstrate that it has developed and periodically practices an emergency plan [at the schools under its jurisdiction] and that such plan has been developed in concert with applicable state or local first-responders, and (B) provide for a uniform assessment [of the schools under its jurisdiction], including any security infrastructure, using the National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities' Safe Schools Facilities Check List. The assessment shall be conducted under the supervision of the local law enforcement agency.



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Line 15

Mary C. Roberts  
Director

Legislative Testimony  
Finance Committee

SB 29 An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State  
For Capital Improvements, Transportation and Other Purposes

March 13, 2014  
Carolyn J. Malon

Senator Fonfara, Representative Widlitz and Members of the Finance Committee, my name is Carolyn Malon and I am the parent of two Catholic School students. I am here to testify in support of SB 29, and to request that funds for school security be made available to Catholic and other non-public schools.

SB 29 includes an amount of up to ten million dollars which will be allocated for grants to schools in Connecticut for the purpose of security upgrades. I am here to request that this grant funding be made available to Catholic and other non-public schools as well.

Many Catholic schools in the state are struggling financially. At the same time, the principals at these schools recognize the importance of maintaining a safe learning environment for their students, and understand that there will be significant financial cost to make upgrades. These school leaders realize that they may have to make the difficult choice of cutting other area of spending in order to protect their students.

The State of Connecticut has a proud history of providing funding to Catholic schools for vital services such as transportation and nursing staff. I believe that school security is just as vital. Catholic schools students are at the same risk level for security breaches as students in public schools. Shouldn't the safety of ALL Connecticut students be our priority? All students deserve a safe learning environment, regardless of which school they attend. It is my firm belief that the legislators of the State of Connecticut have a moral obligation to ensure that students in Catholic and other non-public schools have the same security as students in our public schools. I urge you to support SB 29, and further, to please allow our Catholic schools access to this vital funding for security upgrades. Please help us to keep ALL of Connecticut's students safe.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn J. Malon malondds@aol.com  
11 Mountain Terrace Rd. West Hartford, CT 06107  
860-313-0258

p. 8  
line 16

Mary C. Roberts  
Director

Legislative Testimony  
Finance Committee

SB 29 An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements, Transportation and Other Purposes

March 13, 2014  
Thomas M. Moran

Senator Fonfara, Representative Widlitz and members of the Finance Committee, my name is Tom Moran and I am in the eighth grade at Saint Timothy Middle School in West Hartford. I am writing to testify in support of SB 29, and to request that funds for school security be made available to Catholic schools.

Due to the tragedy at Sandy Hook School, security has become a major priority at schools in Connecticut and nationwide. SB 29 includes funds for grants to schools so that they can improve their security procedures. I am asking that Catholic schools be allowed to apply for these grants.

My school, Saint Timothy Middle School spent more than fifty thousand dollars this past summer to improve security. The school bought security cameras, monitors, new door locks and a new notification system. We were not able to purchase new text books for some classes due to safety priorities.

I believe that wherever I attend school, whether Catholic or public, my classmates and I deserve to be safe. The safety of all Connecticut students should be important to all of you. The state helps Catholic schools to provide nursing and busing services. I think that school security is just as important. All students deserve a safe learning environment, regardless of where they attend school. It is important that students in Catholic and other non-public schools have the same security as students in public schools.

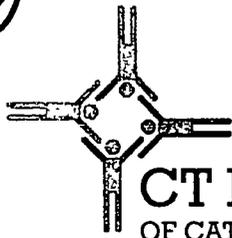
I urge you to support SB 29, and to allow our Catholic schools access to the security grant funding available to public schools in Connecticut. Please help us to keep all schools safe, including Saint Timothy Middle School.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas M. Moran  
11 Mountain Terrace Road  
West Hartford, CT 06107  
860-313-0258

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**CT FEDERATION**  
OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARENTS

Mary C. Roberts  
Director

Testimony of Amy McKeamey  
CT Federation of Catholic School Parents  
Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding  
March 13, 2014

Senate Bill 29. "An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements, Transportation and other Purposes."

Good Morning, Senator Fonfara, Representative Widlitz and other distinguished members of the Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding, my name is Amy McKeamey and I am a member of the CT Federation of Catholic School Parents. I currently have two children attending St. Mary Magdalen School. My youngest will follow suit of her sisters, and start school in the fall, when she is old enough. I appreciate this opportunity to offer my comments in support of amending section 9 of Bill 29, An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements, Transportation and other Purposes.

I grew up in Newtown, Connecticut, and currently live in Thomaston, Connecticut. A few reasons why I am writing to you today are because of the events that unfolded on December 14, 2012, and the funds that have already been distributed to public schools for security improvements because of the events in Newtown.

When I grew up, we did not have lock-downs or have to practice them, we did not have school cameras, or police presence either. We did not worry about our safety while in school. Children today should be able to feel safe, secure and protected while attending school.

Since Governor Dannel Malloy has announced public school grants of over \$15 million dollars, this is a clear message to me, that the Governor supports safety for our all our children.

After December 14, 2012, I was happy to see so many schools react quickly to modify the schools to protect our children. My children's schools made significant progress on building a safer school environment by adding video cameras, bullet proof windows, and improving the entrance to protect the staff and the children.

I am very appreciative of the nursing and transportation services entitlements to all of Connecticut's school children. Those services go a long way in helping our Connecticut schools and families. Now the time has come for safety to be a priority for all Connecticut school children too.

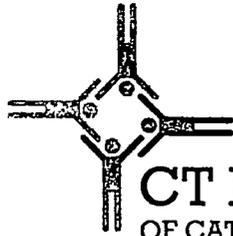
I am humbly asking for you to please support an amendment to section 9 of Bill 29 and allow our Catholic schools access to the security grant funding available to public schools in Connecticut, to have all Connecticut school's safety be a priority as well.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Amy McKeamey

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Line 13



**CT FEDERATION**  
OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARENTS

Mary C. Roberts  
Director

Testimony of Martin Tristine  
CT Federation of Catholic School Parents

Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding  
March 13, 2014

Senate Bill 29, "An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements, Transportation and other Purposes "

Good Morning, Senator Fonfara, Representative Widlitz and other distinguished members of the Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding, and thank you for providing me the opportunity to express my concerns. My name is Martin Tristine and I am the Assistant to the Superintendent of Catholic schools for the Diocese of Bridgeport. I am testifying in support of the Governor's Bill 29 and specifically Section 9(e) (2) "for the purposes of the school security infrastructure competitive grants program established pursuant to Section 84 of Public Act 13-3".

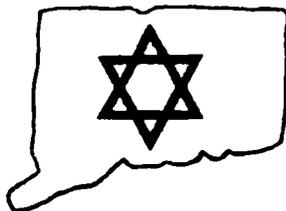
As a consequence of the terrible tragedy at Sandy Hook School in Newtown, Connecticut residents are painfully aware of the need to protect our children while they are in the care of our educational institutions. Many towns in Connecticut have made funds available to enhance security at their public schools in an effort to address their citizen's concerns about their children's safety. Unfortunately Catholic Schools have not been included in this public funding. While we have adopted new policies to improve security and have made some investments in improving security, our schools' available resources limit our ability to do all we need to do in light of recent school intrusions and will require several years to achieve the level of security our children deserve.

Considering that there are 113 Catholic Schools in the state, serving almost 30,000 students, this is a major concern. Our Catholic School students are certainly deserving of the same protections that their public school counterparts are receiving. Our school families, many of whom are not Catholic, trust that their tax dollars will be used to provide the same protection to their children that the government has extended to public school students. Our families contribute the same tax dollars to fund public schools as do public school students' families even though our families do not attend public schools. In the past, the Connecticut Legislature recognized the fairness of including private schools for bus transportation and school nursing. The protection of all our citizens is the most important and basic responsibility of government and should not be provided based on a school being public or private. The Catholic Schools of Connecticut are an integral part of the state's education system, saving state boards of education over \$400 million each year. The security of our children should not be determined by where they go to school, it should be determined based on their constitutional right for fairness and the protection of their government.

Thank you,

Martin P. Tristine  
Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools  
Diocese of Bridgeport

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# JFACT

Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut  
 40 Woodland Street Hartford, CT 06105  
 Phone: (860) 727-5770 Fax: (860) 727-5767  
 Email: [jfact@mcmgmt.com](mailto:jfact@mcmgmt.com)

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 Greater Hartford  
 Greater New Haven  
 Greater Stamford-  
 New Canaan- Darien  
 Western Connecticut  
 Westport-Weston Wilton-Norwalk

**March 13, 2013 Testimony before the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee in Support of SB 29, An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements, Transportation, and other Purposes.**

Senator Fonfara and Representative Widlitz and members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify on SB 29, An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements, Transportation, and other Purposes. For the record, my name is Robert Fishman and I am the Executive Director of JFACT, the Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut, which represents the 9 Federation in our state, 20 Jewish Day and High Schools, as well as 4 Jewish Community Centers, and 8 Jewish Family Service Agencies.

Since 2001, both Homeland Security and the FBI send to us periodic alerts cautioning the Jewish community to be aware of attacks on our Jewish institutions. There have been incidences of terror attacks in past years in New York, Los Angeles and Seattle and 2 employees were killed. The Federal government has established a program for nonprofit security assistance and over the years both Jewish schools, synagogues, churches and mosques have received funding as well as Jewish agencies such as the Mandell Jewish Community Center in West Hartford. When it comes to security, the federal government does not view the problem as separation of Church and State. We are extremely pleased that Governor Malloy has proposed in this bill under Section 9(e) (2) a competitive grant program for school security in the amount of \$10 million dollars. We have spoken to the Governor's office to amend section 9(e)(2) from Public to Public and Private to compete for such grants with Public schools. We strongly believe the State should support this change of wording as all schools are equally at risk for the same type of terrible tragedy as the one that occurred at the Sandy Hook Elementary School on Dec. 14th, 2013.

As you know, the state generously provides bus transportation, nursing and other related specialized services such as occupational, physical and speech therapy to Parochial schools. It seems reasonable for this new proposed allotment of \$10 million for security needs for schools be made available to our Private schools as well as our Public schools.

I urge you to support amending section 9 to include Private schools for the security grant program.

Warmest Regards,

*Robert J. Fishman*

Executive Director  
 Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut(JFACT)  
 40 Woodland Street  
 Hartford, CT 06105  
 Phone 860-727-5701 , cell 860-916-5869  
[www.ifact.org](http://www.ifact.org)

The Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut (JFACT) serves as a legislative representative for the nine Connecticut Jewish Federations and their associated agencies, an associate for the Jewish Community, a public affairs spokesperson and coordinator on statewide programs on issues of mutual interest and concern in the state of Connecticut and Israel.

**TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE FINANCE, REVENUE, AND  
BONDING COMMITTEE**

**March 13, 2014**

*Benjamin Barnes  
Secretary  
Office of Policy and Management*

**Testimony Supporting Senate Bill No. 29**

**AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL  
IMPROVEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER PURPOSES**

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Senator Fonfara, Representative Widlitz and distinguished members of the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on Senate Bill No. 29, An Act Authorizing And Adjusting Bonds Of The State For Capital Improvements, Transportation And Other Purposes.

This bill increases GO bond authorizations by \$370.7 million for the FY 2015 capital program focusing on funding projects and programs that create and retain jobs in the state. The bill decreases STO bond authorizations by \$10,250,000 due to transferring Town Aid Road to GO bonds for technical reasons.

The midterm adjustments include:

- \$30 million more for capital improvements for nonprofit human service providers;
- \$25 million more for the information technology investment program;
- \$10 million more for the Subsidized Training and Employment Program;
- \$1.4 million to match a federal grant to finance code improvements for the Department of Veterans Affairs and \$500,000 to study the feasibility of additional housing for veterans on the campus;
- \$1 million for information technology upgrades at the Office of Governmental Accountability;
- \$10 million for additional school security infrastructure grants to include charter schools, Regional Education Service Centers and the technical high school system;
- \$100 million more to continue business expansion and retention programs;

- \$25 million to create an Advanced Manufacturing Fund;
- \$9.9 million more for start-up costs for Sheff magnet schools;
- \$10 million more for high performing school models/common core requirements;
- \$25 million for the Shoreline Resiliency Fund;
- \$20 million for port improvements and dredging projects; and
- \$49.75 million in special tax obligation bonds for various transportation initiatives including improvements to rail stations on the New Haven Line, to complete the design of stations for the New Haven to Springfield rail service, to increase funding for the local bridge program and for a comprehensive asset management plan.

I would like to again thank the committee for the opportunity to present this testimony. I respectfully request that the committee support this bill and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.