



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
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I am Rep. Tim O'Brien of the Twenty-Fourth District and I would like to testify in support of H.B. No. 5034 (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING VACANCIES IN THE OFFICE OF UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT.

This is legislation to change way vacancies in in the U.S. Senate seats representing Connecticut to immediate and direct special election, instead of by the appointment, for potentially more than two years, by only one resident of our state.

The idea for this legislation came last year. When I was Vice-Chair of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, I worked on the legislation, enacted into law last year, to update and streamline the special election process for U.S. House of Representatives.

At the state level, of course, we have the same laws that apply to the elections for both the House and Senate. It seemed odd to me that Congressional special elections would work differently based on whether it was for the House rather than the Senate.

The purpose of H. B. 5034 is to correct this oddity of state law.

But, it is more than just a technical correction. Of all public offices in existence, it is most of important of all to ensure that legislative seats are chosen by direct election of the people. Legislatures are the most basic part of elected governance, where laws and made and public budgets are enacted.

Our antiquated process of filling vacancies in the office of U.S. Senate flies in the face of the principles of representative government.