



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

**Testimony Presented to the
Government Administration and Elections Committee**

March 16, 2007

Michael J. Cicchetti
Deputy Secretary
Office of Policy and Management

Bill 1123, AAC CORE-CT

Senator Slossberg, Representative Caruso and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, I am Michael Cicchetti, Deputy Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, and I thank you for this opportunity to speak to you today in support of Bill 1123 AAC CORE-CT.

At the direction of the Governor, the Office of Policy and Management engaged the Gartner Group to conduct an independent assessment of CORE-CT in order to provide us with recommendations on how to protect the States' investment in this system. Two of the top recommendations from the Gartner Group were to (1) Consolidate the CORE-CT team into an independent division within the Office of the State Comptroller; and (2) expand the CORE-CT steering committee and improve the CORE-CT governance process through expanded involvement and decision making by line agency users.

The Governor's Budget for the FY 2008–2009 Biennium provides for the implementation of the first recommendation. We are recommending the transfer of 54 positions currently assigned on a full time basis to the CORE-CT team by the Departments of Information Technology and Administrative Services to the Office of the State Comptroller. Combined with the 52 staff currently assigned to the CORE-CT team from by the Comptroller, she will now have a CORE-CT support Division of 106 staff reporting to a single Division Director. This bill formally establishes that Division in Section 1 (a).

Section 1 (b) reconstitutes the original CORE-CT policy board established in 2003 that has never been convened with the Steering Committee which has been in place since the implementation of the system project. It is critical to the success of the Policy Board that the Commissioner of DAS is recognized as an equal partner with the Comptroller and acts as Chairperson of the Board. Looking at the statutory responsibilities assigned for the administration of the Executive Branch of government that are provided through the CORE-CT system, the Department of Administrative Services has responsibility for one half of the system modules operated in CORE-CT. Consequently, as we move all of the staff to the Office of the Comptroller, the Commissioner of Administrative Services must have a substantial leadership role in the overall direction and administration of the system. In addition, following the Gartner Group recommendation, line operating agencies must be appointed to participate in the decision making process.

Recognizing that there is not an intention to cause any conflict with regard to statutory or constitutional authority, we would support the addition of language clarifying that no actions of the Policy Board can infringe upon or diminish the constitutional or statutory duties of any constitutional officer or department head.

The specific role for the policy board is to:

- Establish, implement and oversee policies, procedures and administrative practices for all executive branch agencies related to the operation of the CORE-CT system;
- ensure that all agencies have equal access, as deemed appropriate by the policy board, to all data and reporting functions within the CORE-CT system;
- resolve any interagency or interdepartmental conflicts and concerns that arise with respect to the operation or sharing of data within the CORE-CT system;
- ensure that the state is efficiently implementing and utilizing the functions and benefits of the CORE-CT system;
- recommend and monitor plans for enhancements, upgrades and maintenance of the CORE-CT system; and
- on or before October 1, 2007, and annually thereafter, report to the Governor concerning the operation and functions of the CORE-CT system, including any recommendations for such system.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.