



State of Connecticut  
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Central Office

21 Grand Street, Hartford, CT 06106 • (860) 541-3400 • Fax (860) 246-5419

[www.state.ct.us/chro](http://www.state.ct.us/chro)

Toll Free in Connecticut (800) 477-5737

TDD (860) 541-3459

**CHRO**

---

"Equality and Justice"

**Testimony of Raymond P. Pech  
Executive Director  
Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities**

**February 21, 2007**

**House Bill 7147, an Act Concerning Comprehensive Reform of the  
State Contracting Process**

This bill would enact some of the recommendations made by the State Contracting Standards Board in its report issued on December 29, 2006. In general, the Commission is supportive of the recommendations made by that Board, and of resultant attempts to codify those recommendations. It is Section 7 of this bill to which the Commission has specific comments.

Section 7 appropriates the sum of \$300,000 dollars to the Department of Administrative Services for the purpose of conducting a disparity study regarding minority contracting by the state. This Commission has long advocated a disparity study, as the last one was conducted around twenty years ago, and the data collected at that time is no longer considered valid. The former study does not distinguish female contractors from minority contractors, as this bill would do.

One of the Governor's bills, House Bill No. 7088 at Section 177, also calls for a disparity study, but does not appropriate a specific sum to implement the study. That bill, however, does provide that the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, in cooperation with DAS and OPM, shall conduct the study. As the agency charged with overseeing and enforcing portions of the state's set-aside program, particularly on the requirements made of state public works contracts, we believe it is appropriate, as set forth in House Bill 7088, that the Commission be the designated agency to conduct such a study.

I thank the Committee for the opportunity to express our views on this important bill.