



State of Connecticut

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Testimony of State Representative Joe Mioli, 136th District in Support of HB 5015

Government Administration and Elections Committee March, 23 2008 Public Hearing

Senator Slossberg, Representative Spallone, Members of the Government and Administration and Elections Committee, for the record my name is State Representative Joe Mioli from the 136th District in Westport.

I am here today to testify in support of **HB 5015 AN ACT INCREASING THE TERM OF OFFICE FOR MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**. First I would like to thank the committee for raising this bill and the opportunity to speak here today.

My proposed bill would amend the general statutes to increase the term of office for members of the General Assembly from two to four years.

I see that the Committee Bill has changed this language to having the Secretary of the State, in conjunction with the State Elections Enforcement Commission, to make recommendations for the statutory changes necessary to do this and find cost savings. I believe this is a step in the right direction and is something that should be done in time for when we start redistricting.

In a time when we are looking for ways to save the state money, this bill would reduce expenditures for the Citizens' Election Fund by up to fifty per cent, which I am told by fiscal analysis would be about half of \$9.4 million which was the amount spent in 2008 for state legislative races.

Another reason to pass this bill is because it gives legislators more time between elections to focus on constituents, learning the issues of a district and developing policy. This is because there would be less time spent on constant campaigning and fundraising.

As I am sure many of you are aware, it can be very difficult to learn and advocate for the issues of constituents and your district in just two years. Many of the legislative issues we deal with up here take time and to get legislation passed it takes consensus building over several years. The same goes for finding solutions to problems in the district or constituent cases. They are always ongoing and having more time to familiarize yourself with these issues and the process, I think

is a good thing. Having four years in office without the worry of constant campaigning, I believe would free up more time for us to focus more at the jobs we have at hand. So far five other states already have four year house terms and 32 other states have at least one chamber in the legislature that has a four year term.

I also see the committee has raised House Joint Resolution 113, which would amend the state constitution to lengthen the term for members of the General Assembly, which I also like to go on record as supporting.

Thank you again for this opportunity to testify and I would be happy to answer any questions committee members may have.