



State of Connecticut

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Good afternoon, Senators Colapietro and Witkos, Representatives Shapiro and Bacchiochi and Committee Members. Thank you for holding a public hearing on **HB5222 AAC Charitable Donation Bins**. The bill before you today was modeled after legislation from the 2007 session which the General Law Committee saw fit to pass out of committee on a unanimous vote. Unfortunately, the 2007 version contained a section dealing with increasing registration fees and that bill died when Finance, Revenue and Bonding chose not to act on it.

The stated purpose of the bill before you today is 'to protect the public by preventing fraud related to donation bins.' I hope that you will give further consideration to expanding the purpose to include protecting the public by requiring that each donation bin also display the percentage of total proceeds that the sponsoring charity receives. It has come to my attention that well-known charitable organizations are allowing entrepreneurs to use the organization's name or logo in order to receive a small percentage of the total proceeds. While I find no fault with any charity for engaging in such a practice, I do find it to be somewhat deceitful to the general public. I believe that most people assume that the sponsoring organization receives a significant amount, if not all of the proceeds derived from the donated items. By requiring the display of information about the organization as well as informing donors as to what percentage of their donations end up in the hands of the intended charity, the public is better served.

Thank you again for holding a hearing on **HB5222 AAC Charitable Donation Bins** and for your further consideration of this bill.