



State of Connecticut

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Testimony Regarding:
HB-5827: An Act Concerning the Recall of Municipal Elected Officials

February 18, 2009

Good morning Chairman Spallone and Slossberg. I am here to testify on behalf of HB-5827: An Act Concerning the Recall of Municipal Elected Officials. I submitted legislation two years ago as a freshman legislator and I am again submitting legislation to address a shortcoming in local governance. Prior to becoming a State Representative I sat on the City Council in Bridgeport for ten years of which the last three I served as President of the Council. In my ten years of service to the City of Bridgeport I had the opportunity to learn and provide change. As a newly elected official we saw the change from a two year term of Mayor to a four year term. Unfortunately, when the change was made there was no provision of recall in the event something was to go wrong. As I said before, I served on the Council for ten years and in those ten years the City of Bridgeport went through two very difficult Administrations. The first was with Mayor Ganim and the second was with Mayor Fabrizi. The citizens of Bridgeport were upset and wanted the City Council to deal with the situation but because our Charter does not provide for Recall there was nothing The Council could do.

What I am asking for is to provide the enabling legislation which would give those cities that have Mayors for a four year term to at the very least provide the provisions of Recall if they violate the public trust. This bill is not to go and attack a Mayor if he/she raises taxes and passes some policies which may not be too popular; it is only for those cases where the public trust is violated.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andres Ayala, Jr.