



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

### **OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS' STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF RAISED BILL NO. 6690 AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL LOBBYING**

The Office of State Ethics ("OSE") supports passage of Raised Bill No. 6690, and respectfully requests that the following comments be considered.

This bill expands state oversight of lobbying activities to the municipal arena by requiring registration of municipal lobbyists with the OSE. OSE's online lobbyist registration portal has been recently overhauled to provide a user-friendly system that facilitates timely and efficient registration and reporting of lobbying activities. The OSE anticipates that the cost of administering additional registrations related to municipal lobbying will be minimal and will not significantly increase the cost of such registrations for the lobbying community.

The OSE would like to note that although Raised Bill No. 6690 places administrative duties associated with municipal lobbyist registration upon the OSE, the language of the bill does not articulate how or under what provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes the enforcement of municipal lobbyist registration will take place; or whether the OSE has any interpretative authority, either through regulations or advisory opinions, over the administration of municipal lobbyist registration. If the proposed bill is to be acted upon favorably, the OSE requests that the drafters of the bill provide guidance regarding enforcement and interpretation of municipal lobbying matters. Such requested guidance will prove useful to both the OSE and to those persons who may be subject to its jurisdiction.

For further information please contact: Carol Carson, Executive Director, Office of State Ethics, or Barbara Housen, General Counsel, Office of State Ethics, at 860-263-2400; 860-263-2402 (fax).