



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE JOAN A. LEWIS
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MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT
ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

January 30, 2009

Honorable Gayle Slossberg, Co-Chair
Honorable James F. Spallone, Co-Chair
GAE Committee

Ranking Members: Senator Michael McLachlan
Representative John W. Hetherington

Members GAE

Re: SB 772

I appreciate the Committee's raising SB 772 to address the burden placed on small towns by legislation requiring Minutes and Agendas be posted on a town's website. However, I believe that in this economy it is not acceptable to set a date of October 2009 for compliance. It is simply not feasible for many of our Towns to spend the money to hire IT staff to meet the posting requirements. Appeals would require administrative time and cost at a time when many towns are cutting back on staff. I, therefore, would respectfully request that you extend the date out at least to 2011, or repeal the requirement.

I respect your efforts to increase transparency; however, this is just not the time to impose such a burden on our towns particularly our smaller towns. As you know, many small towns shut down their websites rather than be exposed to FOI penalties. The closing of the websites has an adverse effect on the townspeople (which is the opposite of what you are trying to accomplish) who often browse the website for dates and times of public meetings, membership, town events etc. They are now denied access to this information.

Please re-consider the October 2009 date. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan A. Lewis".

Joan A. Lewis, St. Rep. 8th District