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Good morning Senator Slossberg, Representative Spallone and members of The Government Administration and Elections Committee. I would like to express my support for SB 1148, AN ACT CONCERNING GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY. Last year I suggested this idea to the GAE committee as something it might look at this year and I proposed a bill on the issue this year (SB 523, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A STATE GOVERNMENT WEB SITE FOR THE AWARD OF STATE GRANTS AND CONTRACTS). I am very pleased that the GAE committee has raised a bill this session. Originally, I was contacted by one of my constituents who expressed the idea that Connecticut should follow the federal model and create a website to allow citizen access to information about government grants and contracts. As I have long believed that open disclosure itself discourages fraud and corruption, I found this to be an intriguing proposal.

Recent events across the nation have highlighted the need for government transparency. In response to this concern, the federal government created a website (usaspending.gov) so that citizens can track federal spending on grants and contracts. The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (Transparency Act) required a single searchable website, accessible by the public without cost that includes for each Federal award: 1. The name of the entity receiving the award; 2. The amount of the award; 3. Information on the award including transaction type, funding agency, etc; 4. The location of the entity receiving the award; and 5. A unique identifier of the entity receiving the award. In addition, pursuant to The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the federal government created the recovery.gov website which allows citizens to monitor the expenditure of the funds and the progress of the recovery. We are, after all, a government of the people, and therefore the people have a right to know how their government is spending their money. I believe that this form of transparency will help deter or expose fraud and corruption and will stimulate public awareness and contribute to creating a better informed citizenry. Thank you.