



Susan Bysiewicz
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

**TESTIMONY OF SECRETARY OF THE STATE
SUSAN BYSIEWICZ
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
March 5, 2010**

Good Morning Chairperson Slossberg, Chairman Spallone, ranking members and other distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. For the record, my name is Susan Bysiewicz, and I am the Secretary of the State. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you.

H.B. No. 5427: AN ACT CONCERNING THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE AND THE OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

I support this bill as an effort to cut costs and streamline government. This bill removes the cost of printing and shipping file copies of bills that are readily available online. It removes the requirement that the Office of the Secretary of the State purchase a certificate of mailing for notices of special and reconvened sessions of the General Assembly. It requires that commissioners of the Public Utilities Control Authority shall file public disclosure statements with the Office of State Ethics, instead of the Office of the Secretary of the State, as do other state officers and commissioners. It eliminates the requirement that the Secretary of the State shall certify to the Treasurer and Comptroller the amount and purpose of each appropriation made by the General Assembly. Finally, it eliminates the requirement that the Secretary of the State distribute printed copies of all public acts to each Town Clerk and 10 copies to each clerk of the Superior Court, as these documents are already available online. In total, these changes will save the State of Connecticut an average of \$100,000 per year. All too often such a savings comes at the very real cost of a loss of benefits to the citizens of our state. However, these changes will in no way reduce government transparency, the availability of information, or the services that we provide to the public. Finally, not only does this bill help us along our journey toward balancing our budget, but moves us a step further down the path toward a greener Connecticut.

I thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today and look forward to working with the committee on this and other important election related issues.