



State of Connecticut
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Central Office ~ 21 Grand Street, Hartford, CT 06106

Promoting Equality and Justice for all People

Testimony
Appropriations Committee
March 23, 2010

**HB 5016, AN ACT MAKING DEFICIENCY APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
ENDING JUNE 30, 2010**

Good afternoon Senator Harp, Representative Geragosian and members of the Appropriations Committee. I am Jim O'Neill, legislative liaison for the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities and am providing testimony on behalf of Executive Director Robert Brothers who is out of state. We are here to address HB 5016, AN ACT MAKING DEFICIENCY APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2010.

It is currently estimated that the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) will be have deficient resources in both Personal Services (\$150,000) and Other Expenses (\$70,000) this year.

The budget anticipated the transfer of several employees. It also made assorted adjustments to the OE account. These are reflected in current funding levels which are deficient.

CHRO has made a heroic effort to live within its means; the number of personnel has been reduced by almost one-quarter, or 25 positions; Other Expenses costs are being reviewed on a monthly basis and only the most essential are being authorized.

Unfortunately, even with these changes, CHRO still needs \$150,000 in Personal Services and \$70,000 in Other Expenses to meet basic business expenses through the end of the fiscal year.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee.