



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

Testimony of
Robert L. Genuario
Secretary
Office of Policy and Management

to the
Government Administration and Elections Committee

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In Support of
S. B. 29 An Act Establishing the PERFORM Commission and the PERFORM Review Board

Senator Slossberg, Representative Spallone and distinguished members of the GAE committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 29, An Act Establishing the PERFORM Commission and the PERFORM Review Board.

Over the last eighteen months, each branch of state government has studied, talked about and proposed ideas concerning how best to restructure government, its institutions, structures and delivery systems. Unfortunately, substantial results have yet to be achieved. The time has come to act and to do so in a non-partisan spirit.

Governor Rell proposes that we follow the model established by the federal government for closing and realigning military bases. In the past, the base closure process was fraught with politics and controversy and necessary closures and realignments were very difficult to get through the Congress. The Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) process has worked for over twenty years now and has been considered a success in "right-sizing" our military base system, in significant part because it goes a long way in taking the politics out of the process. The Governor proposes a similar process: there would be a balanced, non-partisan commission that would work in a transparent, public manner to review the structure of state government and propose efficiencies, eliminations, and reductions to the size and cost of state government.

The commission would make recommendations which would be subject to review and public input and, if approved by a review panel, the recommendations would be drafted into reform legislation. This omnibus bill encompassing the recommendations would then be put to a mandatory vote of the General Assembly and no amendments would be allowed, just as in the BRAC process the Congress must vote on the entire set of recommendations, with no amendments allowed.

The citizens of our state are entitled to action on a comprehensive review of government processes and structures. In the 21st century, Connecticut has to have a leaner and more effective state government if our state is to remain a competitive place to do business and a desirable place to live and work. This proposal provides us a mechanism to make real progress after the stalemate of the last year.