

CONNECTICUT
food bank

A PARTNERSHIP TO ALLEVIATE HUNGER

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF RAISED BILL No. 5431—AN ACT CONCERNING
THE ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAMS INVOLVING THE DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES**

March 11, 2010

Good afternoon Members of the Human Services Committee:

My name is Kate Walton. I am the Programs Director of Connecticut Food Bank, the largest centralized source of donated emergency food in Connecticut.

I am here to speak in support of the statutory language change to the supplemental nutrition commodities program administered through the Department of Social Services. This program, contractually managed by Connecticut Food Bank, uses state funds to purchase food of high nutritional value for emergency food assistance programs throughout Connecticut.

The language from the original statute allows for a reimbursement of five cents per pound to cover some overhead costs. When the bill was originally written 22 years ago, five cents was the generally accepted national food bank handling fee.

The new language that is being proposed—capping the handling charge to be no more than the handling charge established by the Feeding America national network of food banks—reflects the current needs of both Connecticut Food Bank and Foodshare.

This amendment would keep with the original concept as written in 1988 which reflected the standardized national handling fee. Also, the amended language will give the food banks the flexibility and provide the additional funds necessary to get the food to as many local communities as possible. These fees help defray some of the costs of warehousing the food, processing orders and delivering the food across the state. Connecticut Food Bank and Foodshare use grants and other fundraising revenues to cover the remaining cost of distributing that food statewide.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Connecticut Food Bank

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