



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE CLARK J. CHAPIN
SIXTY-SEVENTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING ROOM 4200
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 5164 An Act Concerning a Check from a Sole Proprietorship as a Qualifying Contribution Under the Citizens' Election Program

**Government Administration and Elections Committee Public Hearing
March 11, 2011**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5164, An Act Concerning a Check from a Sole Proprietorship as a Qualifying Contribution Under the Citizens' Election Program. This legislation is intended to clarify that a campaign contribution made by an individual using a sole proprietor check should be treated in the same manner as a campaign contribution made by an individual using a personal check or cash.

This clarification is being requested since a number of candidates have continued to receive conflicting responses from the State Elections Enforcement Commission regarding this issue. Several years ago, I asked SEEC whether sole proprietor checks would still be considered individual contributions under the Citizens' Election Program as they always had been prior to the inception of the CEP. Over the course of several days, I received conflicting answers. The last response I received from the Executive Director clearly stated that that contributions made by sole proprietor checks had always been considered individual contributions and would continue to be considered in the same manner and therefore also considered as qualifying contributions. Yet a number of candidates continued to have contributions disqualified since the contributions had been made by a sole proprietor check.

Thank you for your further consideration of HB 5164. Passage of this bill will serve as a clarification and bring consistency to how these contributions are treated. I also appreciate your inclusion of this provision in HB 6533, AAC the Citizens' Election Program and Campaign Finance Laws. As always, I am happy to provide additional information or answer any questions.