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Joint Committee on Government Administration and Elections

Testimony in support of H.B. No. 6514

An Act Concerning the Legislative Intern Program

Representative Morin, Senator Slossberg and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 6514, An Act Concerning the Legislative Intern Program.

The Legislative Intern Program has been a valuable resource to Connecticut students and the Connecticut General Assembly for decades now. As time has progressed the way in which the program is administered has changed. The details of the organization of the program are outlined in C.G.S. Section 2-81 – 2-84; this legislation seeks to bring the language of these sections into congruence with the way the program is conducted in practice today.

To do so minor changes to the text of these sections must be made to reflect changes made to: (1) The Internship Committee co-chair selection process – chairs are now appointed by the speaker or minority leader of the House, or president pro tem or minority leader of the Senate according to the house and party of the appointed member; (2) The length of the internship term – interns now serve for the duration of their school's spring semester or the duration of the regular legislative session, rather than the nine to twelve month terms currently outlined in statute; (3) Intern placement – interns are now assigned to individual legislators rather than committees or legislative agencies; and (4) the manner and timing of the report the Internship Committee must provide to the General Assembly – an annual, rather than biannual, report which is now given during the regular legislative session. Making these four straightforward changes will bring the statute into complete agreement with the current operation of the Legislative Internship Program.

Once more, thank you Representative Morin, Senator Slossberg and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee for raising House Bill 6514 and allowing me to testify in support of it.