



**February 27, 2012 GAE Committee Public Hearing**

**ROVAC TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT**

**Melissa Russell, Exec. VP ROVAC**

**Bill No. 217 - AAC CHALLENGERS AS POLLING PLACE OFFICIALS**

Good morning, Senator Slossberg, Representative Morin and members of the GAE Committee. My name is Melissa Russell, and I'm a Registrar of Voters in Bethlehem, as well as the Executive Vice President of ROVAC. I'm speaking today in support of SB 217.

As public officials, Registrars are always looking for ways to run elections as efficiently as possible. This bill, eliminating challengers as poll workers, helps us do just that. By not having additional challengers in every polling place, Registrars can cut down on the number of people they hire. Having said that, it's important to note that ANY elector can challenge the right of any person who wants to vote, and that any poll worker can issue a challenge as well. The checks and balances of our election system remain intact, without having to have the extra cost incurred from hiring challengers.

On behalf of ROVAC, I ask that you pass this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.