

**HB 5040 – AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR TRAFFIC CALMING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN WESTVILLE VILLAGE**

**HB 5041 - AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR THE SHUBERT THEATER IN NEW HAVEN**

*Testimony of Rebecca Bombero*  
City of New Haven

Senator Lebeau, Rep. Berger, Sen. Frantz, Rep. Camillo and members of the Commerce Committee. My name is Rebecca Bombero and I am the Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director for the City of New Haven. I am here today on behalf of the City to speak on in favor of two important bills.

The first is,

**HB 5040 – AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR TRAFFIC CALMING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN WESTVILLE VILLAGE**

You have before you testimony from the Jim Travers the Director of Transportation Traffic and Parking that speaks to the merits of this bill. Westville Village is now a regional shopping and dining destination with a growing artistic community and a weekly farmers' market.

These activities lend to a high volume of pedestrian traffic along a busy thoroughfare and the traffic along state- and local roads in the village (notably along Fountain Street and Whalley Avenue) disrupts the flow and walkability of this vibrant commercial center.

This funding would enable improvements throughout Westville Village and will help to continue the efforts to revitalize this important economic development center. Improvements to include street trees and landscaping, other streetscape amenities including but not limited to bus shelters and changes to the physical improvements within local and state roadways all within the context of the Complete Streets movement. To help enhance the walkability and vitality of this commercial center.

The second is,

**HB 5041 - AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR THE SHUBERT THEATER IN NEW HAVEN**

You have before you testimony from Kelly Murphy the Economic Development Administrator that speaks to the merits of this bill.

New Haven is the cultural capital of Connecticut, and the Shubert Theater, along with the Long Wharf Theatre and Yale Repertory Theater, is a vital part of the City's cultural community, as well as an important economic driver. As it nears its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Shubert annually attracts over 100,000 patrons, generates \$4 million in ticket sales, and employs ten full-time and 250 part-time workers. In addition, it attracts thousands of visitors to downtown New Haven; visitors who have meals and drinks at local restaurants, and shop along Chapel Street and Broadway before and after catching their show. As a result, all told, the Shubert has a direct economic impact of \$15 million annually.

In order to continue its success, however, the Schubert requires upgrades to its mechanical systems, exterior masonry and roof. I strongly urge the Commerce Committee to authorize these bonds in support of the Shubert and Connecticut's creative economy.

Thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.