

**TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE FINANCE REVENUE AND BONDING
COMMITTEE
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Testimony Supporting Senate Bill No.25

**AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL
IMPROVEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER PURPOSES**

Senator Daily, Representative Widlitz and distinguished members of the Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on Senate Bill No. 25, An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements, Transportation and Other Purposes.

This bill authorizes an additional \$316 million in General Obligation bonds (GO) and an additional \$90 million in Special Tax Obligation bonds (STO) in FY 2013 for various State agency projects and grant-in-aid programs. These proposed authorizations are in keeping with the Governor's emphasis on infrastructure and programmatic investments that create and retain jobs and enhance government efficiency.

A highlight of this bill is funding of \$50 million for capital investments information technology to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of state agencies and programs. The funding will provide for the following initiatives:

- Single Eligibility System-Human Service Programs and Health Exchange
- On-line Licensing
- Automate/consolidate call center functions
- Data Center Consolidation
- Upgrade State Portal - Businesses, Citizens, Employees
- Enterprise systems for permitting, enforcement and customer relations - Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ), other agencies
- Technology investments in support of education reform
- Increase transparency and availability of state government data
- Broadband Expansion of Connecticut Education and Public Safety Data Networks
- Document Management

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The bill also provides an additional \$62.5 million for housing projects and programs, including \$12.5 million for congregate housing and \$30 million to begin to make improvements to the aging state-owned public housing portfolio and to provide additional gap financing for affordable housing projects statewide.

Other projects and programs in the bill include:

General Obligation Bonds

- An additional \$92.5 million for state facility infrastructure;
- An additional \$26.2 million for construction at regional fire training schools;
- New funding of \$5 million for a pilot program to establish energy microgrids to support critical municipal infrastructure;
- New funding of \$5 million for the underground storage tank petroleum clean-up program;
- New funding of \$10 million to assist nursing homes with conversion to other purposes;
- An additional \$9.1 million for ongoing start-up costs for interdistrict magnet schools in compliance with Sheff v. O'Neill; and
- New funding of \$45 million for capital improvements, technology and equipment to improve low performing schools and to replicate high performing school models statewide.

Special Tax Obligation Bonds for Transportation

- An additional \$90 million for bridge improvements based on the Department of Transportation's planned projects.

I would like to again thank the committee for the opportunity to present this testimony. I respectfully request the Committee support this bill and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.