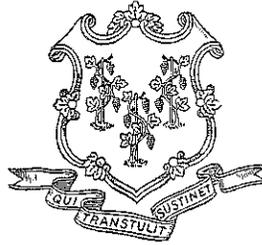


SENATOR GARY D. LEBEAU
Third District

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State of Connecticut
SENATE

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Legislative Management Committee

February 26, 2013

Senate Co-Chair Andres Ayala
House Co-Chair Joseph Serra
Aging Committee
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Chairs, Ranking Members and Members of the Aging Committee:

Testimony in Support of: HB-6397, AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR A SENIOR CENTER IN THE TOWN OF ELLINGTON.

Good morning. I want to thank Co-Chairs Ayala and Serra, Ranking Members Kelly and Adinolfi, as well as distinguished members of the Aging Committee for the opportunity to testify on behalf of House Bill 6397, AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR A SENIOR CENTER IN THE TOWN OF ELLINGTON.

According to 2010 Census data, nearly 10% of Ellington's population is aged 65 years and older. This large population deserves a new senior center to provide for its special social and recreational needs.

The Town of Ellington passed a referendum authorizing the design, construction, equipping, and furnishing of a new senior center on February 14, 2012. Since then, the town has completed a design and awarded the \$2,069,800 contract to Millennium Builders. However, rising expenses have led to numerous items being excluded from the current contract to cut costs. All kitchen equipment, all furniture and fixtures, automatic and handicap doors, a generator, a telephone system, a security system, and numerous other features were all stricken from the current plans, as well as a reduction in the grading of the building's siding from commercial grade to builder's grade, a reduction in the grade of the windows, and a reduction in the quality of the insulation. These are the kinds of crucial additions that would be purchased with this bond money.

The Town of Ellington is already providing over two million dollars towards this project and Ellington seniors have collected approximately \$100,000 through contributions. The town is looking for the state to be a partner in providing a suitable senior center for the elderly population of Ellington. To accommodate the inclusion of the aforementioned items and to minimize the cost to Connecticut taxpayers, I am prepared to reduce my request

from \$1 million to \$550,000. I believe that this is a fair request to establish the kind of building that Ellington seniors deserve.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify before the Aging Committee. I respectfully request that the Committee pass this legislation this year and invest in Ellington's senior population.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gary D. LeBeau". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Gary D. LeBeau
State Senator, 3rd District