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AppropriationTestimony  
Bill 6354 and Bill 6353

I oppose the passage of both bills.

I have had substantial interaction with the technical and legal staff of the ELECTION ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION as treasurer for the reelection of my District 14 State Representative during the last two election cycles. I have found the commission to be very professional, no nonsense but fair. There has always been an atmosphere of we do it right or we don't do it at all. Their independence of outside influence was obvious. So important in this day is "public trust".

So now Gov. Malloy proposes to throw more water on the slippery slope he stated in 2011. He drastically cut the budgets of watchdog agencies by 1/3 --- some would say not a bad idea considering the State budget crises. This resulted in the creation of the Office of General Accountability and placed various watchdog agencies including the Election Enforcement Commission --- an agency that ensures the public to fair and open elections and guides all involved in the election process in following the law --- under its control. He then appointed an executive administrator of the OGA and surprise/surprise a turf battle immediately followed. The agencies are suppose to be independent and non partisan. They are suppose to be free of government influence so they can police the government.

Now the governor wants to consolidate the agencies even more and place them under his supervision of someone he appoints. The staff would be under the control of his appointee and I am sure would lose independence to perform over site of state government

. Working under the nose of the governor's appointee can't help but be intimidating. AND IT DESTROYS PUBLIC TRUST.

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