

Good Morning.

My name is Kieren M. Moore. I reside and practice law in the City of Meriden.

I submit this testimony in reference to H.B. No. 6354 as it pertains to the State Elections Enforcement Commission. I testify from the perspective of a treasurer for two city council campaigns and most recently the Dante for State Senate campaign under the Citizens Election Program.

My experience with the current structure of SEEC has been positive. My interactions with elections officers, staff attorneys and eCRIS personnel have been invaluable in complying with campaign finance statutes and regulations. Most inquiries are answered in real time, while more complicated issues are referred to legal for more in depth analysis. The treasurer is often referred to advisory opinions and declaratory rulings for self study, thus enhancing their knowledge base. For new treasurers, training is available. Other valuable resources, such as plain language guidebooks, treasurer's best practices and campaign finance disclosure statements, are available on the website.

I can appreciate the budgetary constraints driving the proposed legislation. However, the economies of scale seem negligible and the proposed authority given to a gubernatorial appointee over personnel matters is troublesome.

Campaign finance is a specific area of law. In my judgment, it makes more sense for SEEC to maintain its independence and keep the synergies of personnel and substantive law under one domain.

Thank you.

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