

Connecticut Town Clerks Association, Inc.

Legislative Committee



**Written
3/25/13**

Written Testimony

**GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
Monday, March 23, 2013**

HB 6670 – An Act Concerning Supervised Absentee Voting, Applications for Absentee Ballots and Duties and Responsibilities Assigned to Moderators.

Good morning Senator Musto, Representative Jutila, Senator McLachlan, Representative Hwang and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. My name is Antoinette C. Spinelli and I am the Town Clerk in Waterbury and the Chair of the Legislative Committee for the Connecticut Town Clerks Association (CTCA).

The Association opposes the change in Sec. 1 (a) (1) of this bill which defines mental health facility by adding “that is not operated by the state”. This change would create an exception for only those facilities operated by the state under CGS 9-159q which determines supervised absentee voting by patients at institutions. We question why there is a need to exempt a facility solely because it is operated by the state yet all other facilities of this type would still require supervised absentee voting.

We believe the current definition of “institution” in 9-159 q clearly lists those facilities that fall within the supervised absentee voting guidelines and creating an exception would result in confusion for elections officials and voters.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

Antoinette C. Spinelli, CMC, CCTC
Waterbury Town Clerk
Chair, CTCA Legislative Committee