

JUST WRITTEN - NO SPOKEN



Good afternoon to the members of the Government, Administration, and Elections Committee. I'm Daniel Ravizza, an organizer with Connecticut Citizen Action Group. It's an honor and a privilege to represent our over 20,000 member families in Connecticut in opposition to HB 5897, An Act Concerning Cost of Living Adjustments Under the Citizens Election Program.

In the wake of the Supreme Court's decision on Citizens United, our state and municipal races have been flooded with outside money, diluting the voices of our citizens. The Citizens Election Program was a landmark program that empowered every day citizens to have a chance at serving their fellow constituents and inspired transparency in elections. This program, even after Citizens United, has allowed candidates from both sides of the aisle to participate in clean, accountable elections at nearly every level of state office.

Weakening the program through eliminating the cost-of-living adjustments is a blow to our state's democratic process. The Citizens Election Program has faced many challenges in recent years; its integrity is on the line with the passage of this bill. It is for that reason that we firmly stand against the passage of this act.

Thank you.

Daniel Ravizza, Organizer, CT Citizen Action Group