

**TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE**  
Government Administration and Elections Committee  
**March 25, 2013**

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Testimony in Opposition to Section 3 of Senate Bill No. 727 (Adding New Section 1-84(s))

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Good afternoon Co-Chairs, Senator Musto and Representative Jutila and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on Senate Bill No. 727 "An Act Concerning Conflicts of Interest for Public Officials and State Employees". My name is Jeffrey A. Asher and I am speaking in my capacity as Executive Director of the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority. I am here to recommend deletion or revision of Section 3 of this Bill, which proposes adding a new subsection(s) to Section 1-84 of the General Statutes.

Pursuant to the proposed new language included in Section 3 , no public official, state employee (which would include employees of a quasi-public agency) or a member of their immediate family can receive \$1000 or more during a calendar year from a state contractor or other person (other than a state employee) that derives 5% or more of its revenues from state contracts.

This language as drafted would, in effect, bar members of a state employee's immediate family from employment by any Connecticut based hospital, nursing home, human service provider, regional education provider like CREC, community action agencies, charter schools, etc. I am not sure what the intent was behind this legislation, but for my agency, five out of my 23 employees would have to quit their jobs or would have to ask their spouses to resign their position.

In summary, I recommend that the Committee either delete Section 3 from SB 727 or modify it to correct its unintended consequences.

I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to present this testimony and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

**Spoken**  
**3/25/13**