



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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Testimony

***In Support of Proposed H.B. No. 5528
An Act Requiring a Two-Thirds Vote of The General Assembly Before Placing New
Mandates on Municipalities.***

***Planning and Development Committee
February 1, 2013***

Dear Chairman Cassano, Chairman Rojas, Senator Fasano, Representative Aman and members of the Planning and Development Committee:

I am writing in support of H.B. No. 5528, An Act Requiring a Two-Thirds Vote of The General Assembly before Placing New Mandates on Municipalities.

I am proud to be joined by my First Selectman Rob Mallozzi who is here to speak in support of my bill, House Bill 5528. The purpose of the bill is to require a 2/3 vote of the General Assembly before placing new mandates on Municipalities.

As a former member of New Canaan's Town Council, this time last year I was working with Mr. Mallozzi, the other members of the Board of Selectmen, our Board of Finance and other members of the Town Council to reduce our Town's budget and this year I find myself in a similar position only greatly magnified.

In my brief research I could find no local elected official or even constituent who spoke in favor of unfunded mandates.

In these tough economic times, as we tackle very difficult issues like school safety, mental health and responsible gun legislation, we cannot continue to simply shift the economic burden onto our cities and towns in an effort to balance our budget.

Our local officials have done and continue to do an excellent job dealing with State Mandates, including but not limited to those concerning special education and public health, but adding to their already heavy burden, without the commensurate funding, is

simply something we cannot do except in extreme circumstances in which a two thirds vote of the General Assembly would be required.

While we have passed recent laws that require all new mandates be reported with the fiscal impact on municipalities and a one year delay in implementation.

We should revisit the recommendations of the 2005-2006 Commission on Unfunded Mandates that have not yet been implemented.

Thank you for your time and consideration of HB 5528.