



Windham Regional Community Council, Inc.

Jeffrey G. Beadle, Executive Director

March 18th, 2013

Dear Co Chairs Senator Cassano and Representative Jason Rojas,

NOT Testifying

And Distinguished Members of the Planning and Development Committee:

Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Raised Bill Number 6629, an Act concerning Regionalism in Connecticut.

My name is Jeffrey Beadle and I am the Executive Director of the Windham Regional Community Council, [WRCC] a not for profit, 501 C-3 organization providing Human Services in the Northeastern area of the State including the Towns served by both WINCOG and NECOG. WRCC operates an Early Childhood Center, a Youth Services Bureau, a Veterans' Advisory Center, an HIV and AIDS treatment Program, an Assistive Technology Center for people with disabilities, and a number of initiatives that address the problem of Homelessness and the need to provide permanent and affordable Housing to our region's citizens.

Our clients include residents of the Northeastern area of the State, served by NECOG and so I wish to comment on Section 5 of the Bill, which calls for the establishment of a Regional Human Services Advisory Council to address the human service needs of the Region. I oppose the establishment of this effort and particularly the allocation of \$250,000 in State funds to underwrite it.

Given that the majority of our services are provided in the greater Windham Region, I have had the opportunity to work closely with the Windham Council of Governments and so I am very aware of their efforts in the areas of Homeland Security, Transportation, Housing, Economic Development, Land use management and other Regional Initiatives and as a collaborative partner WRCC participates in the HUD Sustainable Communities Project cosponsored by Eastern Connecticut's three Councils of Governments, WINCOG, SECOG and NECOG.

WINDHAM AIDS PROGRAM • WINDHAM YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU • WINDHAM VETERAN'S CENTER
WINDHAM IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM • WINDHAM CHILDREN'S FIRST INITIATIVE
BEYOND SHELTER • HOUSING MANAGEMENT • WINDHAM FAMILY LIVING PROGRAM • PROJECT HOME
A PLACE TO STAY • FETAL AND INFANT MORTALITY REVIEW • WILLIMANTIC FARMER'S MARKET
WINDHAM HEIGHTS DAY CARE CENTER AND THE NEW HEIGHTS CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



These are valuable endeavors of immediate and strategic benefit to our Region and best suited to the core mission and expertise of the COGS. In all due respect however, the delivery of Human or Social Services is not a core area of competency or expertise of the COGS nor need it be as other entities already exist to oversee such service delivery systems. Nor do we need another layer of bureaucracy and administrative fees.

I also find it puzzling, that this proposal has been introduced, to the best of my knowledge, without any input solicited from the primary Human Service Providers in the targeted area, nor from any of the existing Not- for- Profit Collaborative, Public and Private Partnerships or Trade Associations within the Human Service Sector of our Region and the State. Examples of such entities would include School Readiness Councils, Regional DCF providers of care, Housing Coalitions and Continuums of Care, the Northeastern Alliance of Non Profits, and the on the Statewide level, the Connecticut Association of Non Profits, [CAN]. Again, to my knowledge, no providers or entities of cognizance in this sector were involved in or aware of the construction of this plan until the publication of this Bill.

Had I been approached for input, my initial response would be why? There already are existing regional Collaboratives as well as established private Human Service Contractors in place to address human services needs in Northeastern Connecticut. We do not need another top down generated study and subsequent Advisory Council to administer Human Services in our Region. If anything, the \$250,000 should be spent on the direct needs of our citizens, not consultants and managers.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on this proposed Legislation.

Sincerely Yours.

Jeffrey G. Beadle

Executive Director

Windham Regional Community Council Inc.

