

**Testimony
Robert Mallozzi
First Selectman
Town of New Canaan
Planning & Development Committee
February 1, 2013**

State aid to municipalities has been flat funded for more than a decade, requiring towns to fund a larger portion of education and other programs from property tax revenues. At the same time, town budgets are already strained from continued increases in the cost of providing education, public safety and other critical services.

Given the ongoing budgetary pressures on the state and municipalities, Connecticut must act now to relieve some of the burden on our small towns and cities. Unfortunately, efforts to control municipal costs are often frustrated by state mandates that make it almost impossible to reduce budgets or negotiate savings in health care, pension and wage costs. To help our cities and towns meet the difficult challenges of today's economy, meaningful mandate relief must be on the table.

I therefore support efforts to adopt the following mandate relief measures:

■ **Enacting a 2/3 Approval Requirement for Any Unfunded Mandate - SUPPORT**

RE: HB-5097, HB-5099, HB-5101, HB-5172, HB-5241, HB-5273, HB-5274, HB-5438, HB-5439, HB-5528, HB-5529, and SB-223

I support the above-referenced bills that will require any new unfunded mandates to be approved by a 2/3 vote of the General Assembly. This will help focus attention on the costs associated with any new mandate and whether such costs are practical given the budgetary climate.

■ **Posting Legal Notices on the Internet**

RE: HB-5530, HB-5532 and SB-143 - SUPPORT

I support efforts to help towns save costs by allowing them to post certain legal notices on websites rather than in newspapers. Technology is an efficient tool for reducing costs and managing paperwork. Clearly, it is time to update the mandate for posting legal notices by recognizing the efficiencies that can be achieved by authorizing towns to post notices on the Internet.

■ **Storing Personal Possessions of a Landlord's Evicted Tenant**

RE: HB-5295 AN ACT CONCERNING THE POSSESSIONS OF EVICTED TENANTS - SUPPORT

It doesn't make sense to require towns to store the possessions of a tenant following eviction. It only serves to shift costs from the landlord to the town for no valid reason. Landlords are already required to transport the items and should also be responsible for storing the items.

In addition to these proposals, we urge lawmakers to enact meaningful mandate relief reform to give towns more opportunities to reduce costs and deliver services more efficiently.

Police Station, 2nd Floor
174 South Ave
New Canaan, CT 06840
Email: Robert.Mallozzi@newcanaanct.gov
Phone: (203) 594-3000
Fax: (203) 594-3123