

**Barbara Henry
First Selectman
Town of Roxbury
Public Hearing Testimony
Finance Committee
March 13, 2014**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in *support of SB-28, AN ACT CONCERNING REVENUE ITEMS TO IMPLEMENT THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET.*

Section 3 and 4 of this bill provide municipalities with some much-needed mandate relief by exempting towns and cities from the premium tax on health insurance policies. This tax adds several thousands of dollars of costs onto health insurance premiums the town provides its municipal employees.

The insurance premium tax, which is a 1.75% tax on fully insured municipal premiums, is particularly bad news for Connecticut's small towns because we can't afford to self-insure to avoid the premium tax and other mandated health insurance costs.

Connecticut's municipalities are partners with the state in governing our residents. As such, it is unfair for the state to impose this tax on municipalities.

We urge your strong support for eliminating this tax, as called for in the Governor's budget.

Thank you.