



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
GOVERNOR DANIEL P. MALLOY

Testimony of Luke Bronin, General Counsel to the Governor

On Behalf of Governor Daniel P. Malloy

To the Government Administration and Elections Committee

On House Bill 5481, An Act Establishing the Central Office of Administrative Hearings

March 10, 2014

Senator Musto, Representative Jutila, Senator McLachlan, Representative Hwang and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 5481, An Act Establishing the Central Office of Administrative Hearings, which would transfer authority for hearing contested cases from certain agencies to the Central Office of Administrative Hearings. The Administration opposes this bill.

While we respect the proponents' aims, the Administration believes that this bill goes too far in separating agencies' policy-making function from their adjudicatory, investigatory and prosecutorial functions. Agencies possess substantial subject matter expertise, and courts give administrative agency decisions great deference precisely because decisions by agency personnel are informed by such subject matter expertise.

We also anticipate significant costs associated with the establishment of such an office.

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