

March 12, 2014 \* 12:00pm \* 2E

**Testimony on rHB 5342 An Act Concerning The Penalty For Larceny  
By Defrauding A Public Community.**

Dear Chairmen Coleman and Fox, Ranking Members Kissel and Rebimbas,  
and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am here to testify in strong support of rHB 5342, which would establish a mandatory minimum sentence of five years imprisonment for larceny in the first degree when the property is obtained by defrauding the public.

I am a tax payer in Winsted, which makes me a victim of the Centralia crime. I moved to Winsted in 2009 to what I thought was an idyllic and economically stable town. The citizens of this small Connecticut town now understand the wide-ranging and deep financial consequences of decades of theft of their hard-earned taxpayer monies by a trusted town official.

A clear message has to be made to anyone considering working or currently employed in government. You will be held accountable and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law for your actions. There is only one punishment for first degree larceny, and it's not fines or rehabilitation — it's jail time — mandatory five years.

Please seriously consider changing Connecticut General State Statues for first degree larceny to a mandatory minimum sentence of five years imprisonment. We must deter corruption now and for the future.

Best regards,

Candace Bouchard  
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