



**Testimony
Allison Giroux
Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST)
Before the Judiciary Committee
March 17, 2014**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) has concerns about **HS-5570: AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPLICABILITY OF STATUTES OF LIMITATIONS TO ACTIONS BROUGHT BY THE STATE OR A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE.**

HB 5570 would extend the statutes of limitation which applies to private individuals for bringing a claim in certain tort, product liability, and contract actions to the state and any political subdivision of the state.

COST has concerns about the bill's impact on the ability of municipalities to recoup losses on behalf of its taxpayers. First, the state and municipalities and other political subdivisions of the government are unique entities and it is hard to compare a state's or political subdivision's ability to bring a claim to that of a private individual's. The state and political subdivisions are complex entities and operate under more constraints than a private individual.

Furthermore, when the state or political subdivisions are bringing a claim, they are doing so in the interest of their citizens. When a state or political subdivisions suffer a financial loss because of the negligence, or other bad acts of another party, it is more equitable to allow the state or political subdivisions to recoup the losses from the bad actor, rather than to pass it on to taxpayers, regardless of the amount of time that has passed.

In addition, this rule that statutes of limitations are not applicable to states or political subdivisions is the majority rule in the United States and historically has been the rule in Connecticut.

Therefore, COST urges opposition to the bill.