



State of Connecticut

SENATOR JOHN MCKINNEY

SENATE MINORITY LEADER

28th DISTRICT

Suite 3400, Legislative Office Building

Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1591

Hartford: (860) 240-8800

Toll Free: (800) 842-1421

Fax: (860) 240-8306

John.McKinney@cga.ct.gov

www.SenatorMcKinney.com

Testimony of Senator John McKinney In Support Of S.B. 148 An Act Concerning Funding For The Auditors Of Public Accounts

Senator Bye, Representative Walker, Senator Kane, Representative Miner and members of the Appropriations Committee, thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of S.B. 148 An Act Concerning Funding For The Auditors Of Public Accounts.

Performance audits are uniquely designed to evaluate, using objective evidence based criteria, whether a state program is achieving its goals in an efficient and effective manner. They go beyond traditional financial audits to examine in-depth the programs and operations of a state agency. Audit results provide agencies with the data and information necessary to improve performance and reduce costs. Performance audits also help identify duplicative and overlapping state programs and recommend ways to eliminate such redundancies and maximize state resources. Taxpayers deserve to know that scarce state resources are being used efficiently and producing tangible results. Performance audits provide this assurance.

A recent report from the Auditors of Public Accounts states that, due to reduced funding, they were forced to close their performance audit unit. However, when they were conducting performance audits on a regular basis, those audits resulted in significant findings and recommendations for improving agency operations and efficiency. Audited programs included pharmaceutical purchasing and monitoring as well as DAS billing and collection services. Their recommendations improved financial accountability as well as public safety.

The Auditors have developed a list of potential subjects for future performance audits and this list includes critical areas impacting public safety, the security of personal data and information, and the reduction of unemployment and other state benefit overpayments. Performance audits in these areas will save taxpayer dollars, ensure that state benefits are going to those most in need, and improve government operations.

The Auditors' report notes that most other states conduct performance audits on a regular basis. These audits have resulted in significant findings and recommendations for improvements in things such as detecting and recovering Medicaid overpayments, maximizing federal Medicaid dollars, and improving the states' cyber security.

The Auditors would like to resume conducting performance audits, but need the resources to do so. Because performance audits take an in-depth and 360 degree view of agency operations, they require expertise in areas such as policy and data analysis and public administration.

This is an area where government is penny wise and pound foolish. A small investment in improving our performance audit capabilities will yield large improvement in government operations and efficiencies. These improvements will more than pay for the increased staffing at the Auditor of Public Accounts.

Thank you for your time and attention, and I look forward to working with you on this matter.