



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

**REPRESENTATIVE ERIC C. BERTHEL**  
SIXTY-EIGHTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4200  
300 CAPITOL AVENUE  
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700  
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1423  
Eric.Berthel@housegop.ct.gov

**MEMBER**  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

### Testimony

### **In Support of Joint Resolution No. 19 A Resolution Requiring a Two-Thirds Vote To Approve Mandates to Municipalities Requiring A Two-Thirds Vote to Approve Mandates to Municipalities and School Districts.**

### **Appropriations Committee**

**March 27, 2015**

Chairman Bye, Chairmen Walker, Senator Kane, Representative Ziobron and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee.

I am Representative Eric Berthel and I am testifying today in support of Joint Resolution No. 19 **A RESOLUTION REQUIRING A TWO-THIRDS VOTE TO APPROVE MANDATES TO MUNICIPALITIES AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS.**

I am proud to co-sponsor this legislation with Representative O'Neill. This type of legislation is crucial to keeping our state fiscally responsible and to not encumber our towns with additional financial hardship and increased taxes. As we have seen time and time again, without proper reimbursement and funding, it can prove difficult at best for a town to adequately budget for the personnel and materials needed to satisfy the demands of a new mandate without cutting something else or raising taxes. It is highly irresponsible for us, as legislators, to pass laws that require towns with an already dwindling budget to spend even more, to increase the tax burden on its citizens and businesses in order to follow new state regulations. This new joint resolution requires at least two-thirds of the voters in each chamber of the General Assembly to agree to the new mandate. This super majority vote is a good step in ensuring that whatever mandates may be passed is truly integral to the operation of the state and municipality. It is otherwise unreasonable to force municipalities to pay for mandates and the related programs they may not ultimately need. This legislation will protect both local governments and the citizens of Connecticut and I urge you to pass it out of this committee for consideration by the full general assembly.

Thank you for your consideration on this issue and thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,

Eric C. Berthel  
State Representative – 68<sup>th</sup> District