



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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***Testimony by Representative Pam Staneski  
Before the Appropriations Committee  
In support of HJ-19  
March 27, 2015***

Good afternoon Chairmen Bye and Walker, Ranking Members Kane and Ziobron, and members of the Appropriations Committee. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity today to provide testimony in support of HJ-19, A RESOLUTION REQUIRING A TWO-THIRDS VOTE TO APPROVE MANDATES TO MUNICIPALITIES AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

As a prior board of education member and board of alderman in my community, I was involved directly in the budget setting process and saw firsthand how unfunded and partially funded mandates impacted our city. When I had the opportunity to attend regional talks or conferences I was hard pressed to find anyone who spoke in favor of unfunded mandates. In fact, most of the conversations around mandates were couched with comments such as "oh, what we could do to improve this or that", or "think of the services we could provide to our students who..." if we weren't handcuffed by fill-in-the-blank mandate.

In my home district, and I am sure many around this state, budgets are managed in a fiscally responsible way that delivers services and keeps costs at a minimum, and they have done yeoman's work in juggling what mandates have been pushed upon them.

I applaud this body for having partially addressed this through past legislation that require all new mandates with a fiscal impact be delayed by one-year, however, we can do better by municipalities and more important their citizens if we require that this legislature must have 66% agreement before we ask municipalities to take on another mandate.

I encourage adoption and passage of HJ-19.

Respectfully,

Representative Pam Staneski