

I am concerned that our government completely lacks the agility to adapt to our rapidly changing state, country, and world. Elected officials seem consumed with self-interest, re-election, and maintaining the status quo. The Connecticut General Assembly needs to recognize that we are an increasingly mobile society and that people of means and wealth will can and will relocate to localities where they feel welcome. Almost daily, I hear of middle-class neighbors relocating to localities which enjoy a more robust economy.

Our media has been diligent in reporting skewed distribution of wealth. I do believe that one of government's roles is to provide a safety net and equal opportunities for the economically disadvantaged. By my observation, I think the State does as good a job as can reasonably be expected and that this work should continue. I believe the media significantly understates how much of the tax burden economically advantaged citizens bear. I believe that the day has come where it is no longer economically viable to increase the tax load on its citizens and small business. New fiscal requirements must be addressed by reducing the cost of government in other areas.

As a concept, I find legislated spending caps distasteful. They make our politics more contentious and reduce our ability to move resources to where they are most needed. But when elected officials lack the discipline and courage to limit spending to the ability to capture revenue, drastic measures are in order. The fact that public employees are the State's largest employee group and that this group is the strongest constituent of the majority party, gives me concern for Connecticut's future.

I am not a zealot looking to dismantle government and become a low-tax leader. I value many of the social programs that Connecticut offers. However, if our government cannot execute the most basic tenets of fiscal responsibility, change must come. I support passage of Senate Bill 128.

Regards,
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