

With all due respect, please accept these comments as my testimony regarding SB1090, HB 7019, and with regard to ALL existing and proposed legislation, governmental edicts, rules, & guidelines.

I am almost 67 years old. I'm a disabled combat veteran on fixed income. I cannot really afford to live in this state, but with family that works here, and that will not move, I have no reasonable choice but to remain here, if I am to preserve the integrity of my family. Given the financial burdens of living here, and the lack of governmental support and defense of our State and Federal Constitutions, I find this an extremely hostile environment toward all reasonable, constitutionally-minded, law-abiding citizens.

I've lived in Connecticut since 1974, and have seen and experienced an ever increasing financial burden that its excessive spending places on taxpayers. I know that services cost money, but at the same time numerous political regimes in this state have done many things to abuse the financial powers and privileges assigned to them, powers that were supposed to serve and protect the citizens and Constitution of this State. The current, ongoing, Malloy regime has proven itself to be a take from Peter to pay Paul government that has vacated its responsibility to balance the state budget, and it has failed to adequately and responsibly reduce government spending despite the greatly reduced tax base. Everyone in public office needs to "grow a pair", start cutting budgets. They need to take an active stand against the excesses and evils that lead our people astray from righteous living, including excessive and unbridled spending that are just as much a sin for government as they are in one's private budget.

I am wholly in favor of the following:

1. The State must be held to the same standard as the individual, including in matters of finance. God makes it clear that He will expose all errant behavior of persons and governments.
2. Many CT Government programs are too invasive in personal matters. Many CT Government programs and laws too often violate our Constitution and our Rights. A quick and HONEST reading of our State and Federal Constitutions will make this abundantly clear.
3. Connecticut Government is much too willing to feed its own appetites before respecting the "inalienable" Rights of law-abiding citizens. It is more interested in protecting the appearance of the government than the real issues that real citizens face from day to day.
4. Stop all unfunded mandates, including in the education field. It is both unrighteous and impractical to ram orders down the throats of citizens when the government has neither the means nor the interest in providing realistic mechanisms by which to implement the programs without destroying the citizens or their communities.
5. Stop mortgaging the financial future of our children and grandchildren. It is simply not right for the government to barter the futures and unearned incomes of our progeny without the express informed and age appropriate consent of those being levied upon or taxed in absentia.
6. Stop the excessive taxation of persons, property, and businesses: such high taxation has made Connecticut one of the least favorable states in which to live and do business.
7. Stop trying to kill or banish solid businesses such as Colt and other firearms and ammunition manufacturers.
8. Stop all increases to all government programs, benefits, and salaries, until such time as there is an adequate and proven profitable tax base that encourages the building and retention of

personal wealth among all financial classes of citizens, and ONLY THEN might the State resume tax-base-appropriate taxation, spending, and increases.

9. Stop providing special benefits and insurances to governmental officials and employees without direct taxpayer consent by statewide referendum.

10. Stop the practice of government officials being able to approve raises and benefits and exemptions for themselves without direct taxpayer approval by statewide referendum.

11. Dollars and cents, and the acquisition of power, must be put aside as the gods of government, and the God of Creation must be acknowledged and obeyed with regard to moral issues. Government is there to lead and serve the people of this State. I have seen exceedingly few elected, or appointed, or hired officials standing for godly living and godly accounting, and seldom in front of the political herd.

12. Government must stop pandering to unholy interests and practices. The Bible is clear about how government will be judged, whether or not government wants to admit its responsibility before God.

13. We do NOT need more casinos. The existing ones are having difficulty staying profitable.

14. We do NOT need legalized homosexual marriages. That is abomination to God.

15. We do NOT need legalized suicide, be it assisted, or otherwise. No nation has survived that kills its own feeble souls.

16. We DO NEED the return of capital punishment. God instituted it for good reason, to stop habitual criminals.

17. We do NOT need bailouts for businesses, schools, or persons. The State is NOT in the financial charity business. If people choose to build in bad locations then let them pay their own repairs. If schools or businesses or communities are failing then there is good reason for their demise. If the weak and infirm need help, then help them when they cannot do for themselves, but let it not become a general habit and excuse of government to placate or shore up every human failure.

18. All the laws in the world will not solve human problems. What we DO NEED is for government to deal biblically with crime and unholy things, but to get out of the way of law-abiding citizens who already obey Law and Principle without reservation. Let us freely generate products and wealth, according to our God-given gifts and talents, and for the government to leave us alone to live according to the tenets of constitutionally agreed upon and prescribed principles by which we are supposed to be living in this State and Nation. At present the greater portions of the various existing levels of government in this State and Nation are a burden and curse to law-abiding citizens and a joke to evil-minded souls and criminals. God's view of what government is supposed to be and do is clearly stated in Romans 13:3-4: "For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil."

Law-abiding, constitutionally-minded citizens are NOT the enemy of government, in God's eyes. However, today, government is so wrapped up in itself and special interests that it has no clue why it exists or whom it is supposed to be protecting from what. With all due respect, I adjure you make a real and godly difference during your tour of duty in office, by taking to heart and mind that which God says our government is supposed to be doing! Thank you for considering

my thoughts and comments. May God bless you to see and do things His way, no matter what the world says or does.

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Hope in Salvation: <http://www.godssimpleplan.org/gsp.html>  
Respect for History: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HVz\\_j0DzuEk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HVz_j0DzuEk)  
Voice In The Wilderness: [www.craigszwed.blogspot.com](http://www.craigszwed.blogspot.com)  
My Arts & Values: [www.craigszwed.net](http://www.craigszwed.net)

Life Member:  
281st Assault Helicopter Co. Association  
Disabled American Veterans  
Military Order of the Purple Heart  
National Rifle Association

Member:  
Connecticut Carry (Volunteer Editor)  
Connecticut Citizens Defense League  
National Association for Gun Rights  
Oath Keepers  
The American Legion  
United States Concealed Carry Association

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Real courage, in all things great or small, is nothing more, or less,  
than simply doing what is right, in spite of feelings, personal interests,  
or circumstances. (Craig M. Szwed, 2013)