



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE GAYLE MULLIGAN
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Labor Committee
February 23, 2015

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 5515 AN ACT EXPLORING
THE PREVAILING WAGE LAWS

Good Evening Co-Chairs Senator Winfield, Representative Tercyak; Vice Chairs Senator Osten, Representative Cuevas; Ranking Members Senator Hwang and Representative Rutigliano; and esteemed members of the Labor Committee. My name is Gayle Mulligan and I proudly represent the 55th, serving the wonderful towns of Andover, Bolton, Hebron and Marlborough.

The prevailing wage thresholds have continued to plague our small towns and have proven to be a costly and burdensome mandate. These laws have not changed in over 20 years even though the construction costs continue to rise significantly. The prevailing wage rates significantly drive up the cost of state and local construction projects deterring towns from moving forward with much needed repairs and smaller construction projects. These laws have put a strain on our smaller towns that carry the burden of local property taxes on the backs of the people. The objective of this bill is to look at adjusting the threshold that triggers the prevailing wage requirements so as not to discourage smaller projects from being completed because of affordability. The prevailing wage laws were not originally intended for smaller projects. These laws have also proven detrimental to the local contractors as the prevailing wage rates in many cases are considerably higher than that of the local contractor wage rates.

Given the financial environment in our state, adjusting the prevailing rate threshold would help control local costs for projects and will encourage towns to move forward with much needed repairs and development opportunities. We need to help our communities and rid them of the unnecessary unfunded mandates where all possible and increasing the prevailing wage threshold is a very good step in that direction.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind Regards

Gayle Mulligan
State Representative -- 55th District