



## State of Connecticut

### SENATE

STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**SENATOR ROBERT J. KANE**  
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DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER

RANKING MEMBER  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

MEMBER  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Senator Osten, Representative Miller, and members of the Planning and Development Committee,

I am Sen. Rob Kane, and I am testifying in favor of Proposed H.B. No. 5096: AN ACT INCREASING THE THRESHOLD REQUIRED FOR PASSAGE OF UNFUNDED MANDATES.

This bill requires the approval of two-thirds of the members of both chambers of the General Assembly for passage of any new or expanded unfunded mandate on municipalities. I represent several small towns in my district and the local leaders in those towns face tremendous budget pressures. They do not want to raise property taxes. The unfunded mandates that get passed here at the State Capitol force those local leaders to spend more taxpayers' dollars. To pay for those mandates, the pressure rises to raise local taxes.

Let's put an end to unfunded state mandates. This bill will at least make it more difficult for state lawmakers to pass those unfunded mandates. It's an added hurdle, and it's a necessary one. Let's make it harder for not just us to pass these mandates. Let's make it harder for those who serve after we are gone to pass those mandates.

We are overtaxed in this state. Let's pass this bill and send a message to town leaders and local property taxpayers that we hear them.

Thank you for your consideration of H.B. 5096.

Sincerely,

State Senator Rob Kane

32<sup>nd</sup> District