



# State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE LAURA R. HOYDICK  
ONE HUNDRED TWENTIETH DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4200  
300 CAPITOL AVENUE  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591  
HOME: (203) 378-9476  
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700  
IN STATE TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-1423  
FAX: (860) 240-0207  
Laura.Hoydick@housegop.ct.gov

DEPUTY REPUBLICAN LEADER

MEMBER  
BANKS COMMITTEE  
ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE  
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE  
JOINT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT

***Testimony by Representative Laura Hoydick  
Before the Veterans' Affairs Committee  
House Bill 6713  
February 17, 2015***

Senators Flexer and Martin, Representatives Hennessy and Yaccarino, and members of the committee, thank you for holding a public hearing and allowing me to provide testimony in support of Proposed House Bill 6713, **AN ACT INCREASING THE RETIREMENT AGE FOR THE HORSE GUARD COMMANDANTS.**

The intent of the bill is to increase the retirement age for the horse guard commandants from sixty-four years of age to seventy years of age. Due to the nature of these particular militia units and the fact that they serve on a volunteer basis and elect their own leadership, I support extending the retirement age of the Major Commandant to 70 years old.

The volunteers of each horse guard troop elect the commandant and other officers through an election process. As depicted in their by-laws, the first guard elects the Major Commandant every five years. Captains are elected every four-years and the first and second lieutenants are elected to two-year terms. Because the officers are elected by their volunteer peers, I believe the troop members know if the commandant is serving the needs of the unit regardless of age.

The governor's horse guards fall under the oversight of the National Guard, and the two horse guard militia units in Connecticut consist of enlisted volunteers who serve at the Governor's behest which are primarily ceremonial in nature. Therefore because of the difference in purpose and responsibilities, I do not feel the horse guards should be required to follow the National Guard retirement age limits.

I would request the passage this proposed bill to allow commandants to serve at the selection of their peers until the age of 70. Thank you for your consideration.