



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

Testimony of
Susan Weisselberg, Deputy Secretary
Office of Policy and Management
Before the Appropriations Committee
March 4, 2015

Good afternoon Senator Bye, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Susan Weisselberg and I am here today to discuss the Governor's recommended FY 2016 - FY 2017 biennium budget for the Office of Policy and Management (OPM).

OPM has responsibility for all aspects of state staff planning and analysis in the areas of budgeting, management, planning, intergovernmental policy, criminal and juvenile justice planning and program evaluation. OPM is also responsible for labor relations and collective bargaining services for state employees in the executive branch, other than the constituent units of Higher Education, the State Board of Education, and the Division of Criminal Justice. The OPM Secretary, or his designee, serves on over 100 Boards, Commissions, Councils, and Task Forces.

OPM's recommended general fund budget of \$282.3 million for FY 2016 is \$10.2 million, or 3.5%, less than the FY 2015 appropriation of \$292.5 million. The FY 2017 recommended general fund budget of \$285.1 million is \$7.4 million, or 2.5%, less than the FY 2015 appropriation.

OPM's recommended budget is reflective of the Governor's priorities to balance the State of Connecticut's budget and to live within our resources, which means tough choices had to be made. There are some decreases in OPM's general fund budget that, under ideal circumstances, the Governor would not support. For example, the Governor is not recommending a change to several sunset provisions for aid to municipalities (\$4.7 million) and youth services prevention grants (\$3.6 million). It should be noted that while the Governor did not recommend a change to sunset provisions for aid to municipalities totaling \$4.7 million, this reduction has been substantially offset by a recommended increase of \$3.6 million in capital funds for municipal purposes and projects.

Lower-than-projected caseload figures allows a decrease in funding for tax relief for elderly renters (\$1.2 million) without affecting the recipients. OPM's budget also reflects a reduction in funding (\$668 thousand) to implement the Criminal Justice Information System, which reduction will be offset by the carry forward of projected FY 2015 unexpended funds. Other recommended changes include a decrease in OPM's

Other Expenses budget (\$680 thousand), which will reduce the budget to FY 2014 expenditure levels.

OPM's recommended insurance fund budget increases from \$494.5 thousand in FY 2015 to \$517.3 thousand in FY 2016 and to \$520.8 thousand in FY 2017.

OPM's recommended Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan fund budget of \$61.8 million for each year of the biennium remains at the current year appropriation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. My staff and I would be happy to answer any questions that you might have.