



FOUNDATION FOR FAIR CONTRACTING
OF CONNECTICUT, INC.

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Testimony of
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Re: H.B. No. 7022 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING AUTHORIZATION OF STATE GRANT COMMITMENTS FOR SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS AND CHANGES TO THE STATUTES CONCERNING SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS.

March 23, 2015

Honorable Senator Slossberg, Honorable Representative Fleischmann, and esteemed members of the Education Committee:

The Foundation for Fair Contracting of Connecticut ("FFC") submits this testimony in support of H.B. No. 7022 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING AUTHORIZATION OF STATE GRANT COMMITMENTS FOR SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS AND CHANGES TO THE STATUTES CONCERNING SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS.

The Foundation for Fair Contracting of Connecticut (the FFC) is an industry-sponsored organization. Our mission is to promote compliance with laws and regulations relating to public works construction. Specifically, we focus on issues concerning wages, classification of workers and apprenticeship standards.

School construction is vital to the health and well-being of any municipality. Providing municipalities the opportunity to be added to the school building project list before holding a referendum to assure funding is a good step to ensuring that voters have an opportunity to have their voices heard while meeting important application deadlines. If a municipality is required to hold a referendum, then the law, as is, makes it difficult for a project to get underway in a more timely fashion; this legislation enables a more expedient process.

This bill will also reduce the uncertainty for those who develop the budgets for these projects by decreasing the time between initial budget and the actual bidding process, which currently can be two years or more. The construction industry is not immune to price fluctuations based on supply and demand and thus budgets can have significant padding introduced to attempt to anticipate these variances.

The FFC supports this legislation which enables municipalities' flexibility in their schedule to secure support and approval from its constituency and asks the committee to vote favorably.