

TESTIMONY: Rep. Santiago (D-Bridgeport) on H.B. 7051 and H.B. 7052

Co-Chairs of the Judiciary Committee -- Senator Coleman and Representative Tong -- and committee members.

Thanks for the opportunity to provide testimony today in support of House Bill 7051 and House Bill 7052.

Each of these bills gives our state a unique opportunity to make a statement: We will no longer stand idly by as corrupt politicians harm our cities and towns, as well as our state as a whole.

I'm from Bridgeport. Born and raised in our state's largest city. I've seen the vast majority of elected officials do right by the people, helping to make our city and state a place where companies want to invest and hire people, where people want to live and work, and where our strong economy makes for even stronger communities.

But I've also seen a handful of corrupt politicians at the state and local levels pick the pockets of taxpayers. These corrupt politicians make all honest public servants look bad.

Worst of all, these corrupt politicians keep investors and job creators from wanting to come to the state of Connecticut and cities like Bridgeport.

We've seen corrupt politicians fall again and again. Clearly we need to do more to keep corrupt politicians from violating the public trust, and to boost confidence in investors and job creators."

That's why I support these two legislative initiatives: keeping corrupt politicians from being allowed to pick the pockets of taxpayers again. And, giving state prosecutors the tools they need to prosecute corrupt politicians at the state level.

These measures are common-sense. I'm confident that they'll help create jobs and move our state and city toward a stronger future.

In closing, I just want to add that I support Governor Malloy's second chance initiative. His legislative efforts are aimed at setting people up for success when they re-enter our community after serving time. And, for exactly that reason, I support these efforts. Because we're not doing right by taxpayers or those who are re-entering our community if we allow them to go down the path that got them into trouble in the first place.

Again, this is common-sense. Thank you.