



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

**REPRESENTATIVE CECILIA BUCK-TAYLOR**  
SIXTY-SEVENTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4200  
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL PHONE: (860) 240-8700

TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-1423

FAX: (860) 240-0207

Cecilia.Buck-Taylor@housegop.ct.gov

**RANKING MEMBER**  
EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

**MEMBER**  
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

February 24, 2015 \* 6:00pm \* Middletown City Hall

### **Testimony on Proposed HB 5071 An Act Concerning Municipal Tax Relief And The Facilitation Of Public Works Projects ; Proposed HB 6250 An Act Concerning Private Contributions To Public Works Projects And The Prevailing Wage Standard.**

Dear Chairmen Winfield and Tercyak, Ranking Members Hwang and Rutigliano, and distinguished members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee:

I am writing in support of Proposed HB 5071 which seeks to increase the prevailing wage standards for both new construction and renovation on public works projects. The last increase to the thresholds occurred in 1991. My proposal would increase the threshold for new construction to one million dollars from the current \$400,000 level and for renovation projects to \$400,000 from the current \$100,000 level.

To illustrate the over 20 years since the statute was amended and the purchasing power, I visited a website called U.S. Inflation Calculator. According to the calculator in 2015 dollars the same project would cost \$695,259.91 when the \$400,000 threshold was established in 1991. I also used this website to calculate in 2015 dollars what \$100,000 would cost when the renovation threshold was established in 1991. It would cost \$173,814.98.

I also reversed the years using the same website and it calculated if the purchase was \$400,000 in 2015 the cost in 1991 would be \$230,129.76. If the purchase was \$100,000 in 2015 dollars the cost in 1991 would be \$57,532.44. The thresholds should be increased.

I am also writing in support of HB 6250, which would exempt private funds that are used in public works projects in the calculation of prevailing wages. Given the fiscal constraints our towns and local boards of education operate under local organizations and in some instances individuals raise funds for the purpose of contributing to a project that benefits a school or an important public building. Those

private funds should not be included in any potential project that prevailing wage would be a factor. More and more private funds are necessary to get projects done in our communities.

I thank the Committee for including both Proposed HB 5071 and HB 6250 on tonight's public hearing agenda.

Respectfully yours,

Cecilia Buck-Taylor