



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE GAYLE MULLIGAN
FIFTY-FIFTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4200
300 CAPITOL AVENUE
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1423
Gayle.Mulligan@housegop.ct.gov

MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Appropriations Committee
Public Testimony
March 4, 2016

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 5086 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONSTITUTIONAL SPENDING CAP

Good Morning Co-Chairs Senator Bye, Representative Walker; Vice Chairs Senator Hartley, Representative Genga, Representative Porter; Ranking Members Senator Kane, Representative Ziobron; and esteemed members of the Committee. My name is Gayle Mulligan and I proudly represent the 55th district, serving the wonderful towns of Andover, Bolton, Hebron and Marlborough. I am writing in enthusiastic support of HB 5086.

In 1991 the legislature voted for and imposed the state income tax on the people of Connecticut. We can debate the legitimacy of this action and the impact it had on the state but what cannot be disputed is how the people of Connecticut felt. I was not a member of this body at that time but I vividly remember the strong and sustained opposition to the passage of the income tax. Thankfully the legislature realized that they had to keep the state's spending under control and passed the Constitutional spending cap which was approved in 1992. Recognizing it had just imposed a massive tax increase on the people, this amendment was a promise to the citizens of Connecticut from its government that it would find a way to live within its means.

But with a nearly \$1 billion deficit upon us, it is obvious the state has fundamentally failed to uphold its end of the bargain. Time and again we have seen these deficits with no clear way to end this crisis. The spending cap was meant to prevent this calamity yet the legislature has used creative bookkeeping to go around it or just ignored the cap. This, I believe, is the great tragedy and we must rectify it immediately--HB 5086 is essential to this. The people voted for us to control our spending and this bill will get us back on track.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Gayle Mulligan'.

Gayle Mulligan
State Representative, 55th District