



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

THEMIS KLARIDES  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**Testimony in Support of House Bill Number 5394  
GAE Committee  
February 29, 2016**

Chairmen Jutila and Cassano, Ranking Members Smith and McLachlan and Members of the GAE Committee, the House Republican Caucus would like to thank the Committee for raising House Bill Number 5394: An Act Concerning Endorsements of Town Committee Members.

This bill is an important House Republican proposal to exempt candidates endorsed for election as town committee members from the requirement to sign a certification of endorsement.

Currently, due to an oversight in Public Act 15-224, candidates for local town committees are burdened with the requirement of having to sign a certification of endorsement. This process places an undue strain on town committee leadership, who have to run around collecting signatures, sometimes being unable to contact or locate candidates. Additionally, no formal procedures were issued under the act, further complicating the process for town clerks.

House Bill 5394 would eliminate the signature requirement and provide much needed clarification to our current law. As a state, we should be encouraging more citizens to get involved with the political process. Keeping the language as it currently exists will only act as a barrier to that goal and continue to cause confusion.

I urge the GAE Committee to pass Raised Bill Number 5394 to exempt candidates endorsed for election as town committee members from the requirement to sign a certification of endorsement. Please allow the full General Assembly the opportunity to debate this issue and to pass legislation to improve participation in our state government.