KEVIN LEMBO
STATE COMPTROLLER

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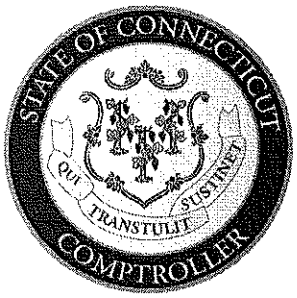

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE *of the* STATE COMPTROLLER
55 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Written Testimony
Comptroller Kevin Lembo
March 7, 2016

Concerning
H.B. 5513 AA Revising Certain Statutes Concerning the State Comptroller

Good afternoon Senator Cassano, Representative Jutila, Senator McLachlan, Representative Smith and Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

Thank you for raising H.B. 5513, AA Revising Certain Statutes Concerning the State Comptroller, and providing me an opportunity to present testimony on the need for this bill.

As you may be aware, the Connecticut State Employees Campaign for Charitable Giving (CSEC) is a once-a-year opportunity for Connecticut state employees and retirees to contribute through their workplace to organizations working to better their neighborhoods, state and world. For over two decades, Connecticut state employees and retirees have shown their heartfelt generosity, on average raising over $1 million each year to make a difference.

Since the beginning of the CSEC, fundraising management practices have evolved, but the statute simply has not. The purpose of this bill is to clarify elements, including my role, of the CSEC to match what is current practice and allow for more administrative flexibility so that cost savings may be realized.

Specific changes that are the most substantial in this proposed bill are:

(1) a change in the definition of "Principal Combined Fund-raising Organization" (PCFO) so that the administration of the CSEC can be updated to reflect current practice, to provide more flexibility and cost-effective options for the State Employee Campaign Committee (SECC) to manage the program as it is limited to only one option at this time; and

(2) an insertion of a deadline for when the SECC has to submit a review of the previous year's CSEC to the Governor, General Assembly and Comptroller.

The other changes update and streamline the statutory language.

(more)

There is great potential to build a more robust CSEC that would not only benefit the non-profits that do the work that government cannot; but also increase the empowerment and pride of state employees whose energy and generous spirit make each campaign a success. This bill is a good first step in seizing that potential.

I urge and appreciate your support of this legislation. Thank you.