



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

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*WRITTEN TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE*  
**Government Administration and Elections Committee**

In Opposition to H.B. No. 5613  
(*An Act Prohibiting Disclosure of Date of Birth Information on Voter Records*)

March 14, 2016

Statement of Michael J. Brandi, Executive Director & General Counsel  
State Elections Enforcement Commission

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Chairman Cassano and Chairman Jutila, Vice Chairs Gerratana and Alexander, Ranking Members Senator McLachlan and Representative Smith, and distinguished Committee members. I am Michael Brandi, the Executive Director & General Counsel of the State Elections Enforcement Commission.

I am here to speak in opposition to House Bill Number 5613, *An Act Prohibiting Disclosure of Date of Birth Information on Voter Records*. This bill applies to all records of an elector created, prepared, compiled or maintained by, or filed with, a registrar of voters of any municipality and requires that the date of birth must be fully redacted before the record can be disclosed to the public or any public agency. It is quite broad and would appear to prevent the State Elections Enforcement Commission from access to information that it uses during investigations and the Citizens' Election Program's grant application process. While the information may be available through other means, such methods will be slower and more costly. We therefore request that the State Elections Enforcement Commission be exempted from the application of this statute.

We would also urge the Committee to think carefully about this bill and its ramifications. Which other public agencies will it block from information? What adjustments will be required for the registrars' offices? What re-programming will be required for the Connecticut Voter Registration System? We understand that this is a work in progress and the legislative session is long. We look forward to continuing to work with this Committee and the legislature as a whole to reach the right balance of access to information and disclosure. Thank you for this opportunity to present this testimony.