



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

WRITTEN TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE
Government Administration and Elections Committee

In Opposition to H.B. No. 5616
(*An Act Concerning Notices and Public Information*)

March 18, 2016

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

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 No. 5616, *An Act Concerning Notices and Public Information*. Like House Bill No. 5613 which the State Elections Enforcement Commission opposed last week, section one of this bill also restricts access to information collected under Title 9 of the Connecticut General Statutes. In some aspects it is even broader than House Bill No. 5613. This proposal applies to *all* information collected by any public agency, not just registrars of voters.

We would urge the Committee to think carefully about this bill and its ramifications. What adjustments will be required for the public agencies who maintain and disclose the covered information? Will re-programming be required for the Connecticut Voter Registration System? What will the cost be? What adjustments will be required for the public agencies who use the information? What will the cost of that be? 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.