



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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FINANCE, REVENUE, AND BONDING COMMITTEE  
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Government Administration and Elections Committee  
February 29, 2016

### **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 257 – AN ACT CONCERNING REMOVAL FROM PARTY ENROLLMENT LISTS AND DENIAL OF PRIVILEGES**

Good Afternoon Co-Chairs Senator Cassano, Representative Jutila; Vice Chairs Senator Geerratana, Representative Alexander; Ranking Members Senator McLachlan, Representative Smith; and esteemed members of the Committee.

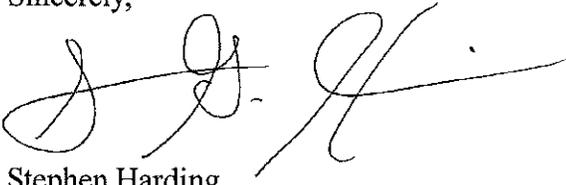
I am providing this testimony in favor of the adoption of S.B. 257, An Act Concerning Removal from Party Enrollment Lists and Denial of Privileges. The law currently in place allows for members of a party to remove other members, if their membership is deemed to be not in good faith. Under current law, this removal is done at the municipal level, allowing municipal party leaders to remove fellow residents of the same party.

Although, this current law, C.G.S. § 9-60-9-63, is not often used, it has been utilized within my district over the past year. It has created a large amount of divisiveness and political animosity in our quaint suburban town. The negative ramifications I have observed from this statute far outweigh any of the possible positive attributes, which someone may argue this law contains. That in itself should be reason for repeal.

It is certainly questionable whether party removal should occur at any level, but if any law regarding such action remains, removal at the municipal level is not the proper venue. It is hard pressed for many to understand how municipal party leadership can have the authority to remove members from a nationwide party with well over 30 million citizens enrolled.

In closing, for the reasons previously stated, I support S.B. 257 and its repeal of C.G.S. § 9-60-9-63.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Harding', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephen Harding  
State Representative – 107<sup>th</sup> District  
Bethel • Brookfield • Danbury