CEA opposes HB 5587.

CEA does not support the extension of the Commission on Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth, which was established late last year in PA 17-2 June JSS. The commission, which does not include legislators, was created without a public hearing, yet given extra-legal powers to produce a bill for consideration by the General Assembly, subverting the role of legislative committees, and legislators as a whole. We believe the creation of this commission to have been an unwise and ill-defined expansion of influence to decision-makers with no democratic control.

Adding to its subversion of democratic controls, the commission has also created itself as a 501(c)(3) Connecticut Rising, Inc., operating as a private entity somewhat akin to a quasi-public agency, but with no oversight or comparable transparency required of other agencies that straddle public and private sectors. While HB 5587 adds certain legislative committee chairs to the committee, the presence of legislators does not compensate for the extra-legal authority granted to this private entity. Extending the work of this entity would further undermine public oversight and blur the line between public and private interests.

CEA urges rejection of this bill.