

Testimony of Tom Swan

Executive Director of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG)

Senate Bill 10 AAC Revenue to Implement the Governor's Budget

Senate Bill 11 AAC Connecticut's Response to Federal Tax Reform

House Bill 5134 AAC a Tax Credit for Businesses that Provide Paid Family and Medical Leave

April 25, 2017

Senator Fonfara, Senator Frantz, Representative Rojas and members of the Committee, my name is Tom Swan and I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG). I am testifying today on behalf our thousands of member families.

I am here today to testify on Senate Bill 10 AAC Revenue to Implement the Governor's Budget and Senate Bill 11 AAC Connecticut's Response to Federal Tax Reform.

In regards to SB 10, we appreciate the Governor acknowledging that revenue needs to be a part of addressing our state budget situation and addressing longer term challenges the state faces. We specifically support sections 27 & 28 that update our beverage container redemption law. This is an example of a proposal that increases revenue, but also advances other policy goals increasing our recycling rates and saving municipalities money on waste disposal.

Otherwise, we believe that we need to look for more progressive revenue options than what has been proposed.

We applaud the Governor for proposing SB 11 in response to the Trump tax scam. The Federal legislation is abomination and was clearly designed to punish more enlightened states like Connecticut. We expect this proposal to be refined as it moves along and hope to be able to enthusiastically support passage.

We oppose HB 5134. We agree that we need to improve people's ability to access paid family and medical leave, but this approach is inadequate and is not likely to help many of Connecticut's families that could most benefit from an expansion.