



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION**

*WRITTEN TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT  
ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE  
CONCERNING H.B. 5173 & 5176*

*February 26, 2018*

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

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Co-Chairs McLachlan, Flexer, and Fox, Vice Chairs Frantz, Slossberg, and Winkler, Ranking Member Devlin, and distinguished Committee members. I am Michael Brandi, the Executive Director and General Counsel of the State Elections Enforcement Commission (“SEEC”).

I am writing to the Committee to express the Commission's concerns regarding **HB 5173** (An Act Protecting the Privacy of Voters) and **HB 5176** (An Act Protecting Municipal Police Officers and their Families), which propose changes to the availability of voter registration information. It is unclear at this time how, or if, these bills would impact our staff’s ability to continue to obtain information about an elector’s bona fide residence or a campaign contributor’s residential address, or any other information related to voter registration that might impact SEEC’s ability to ensure compliance with the state’s campaign finance laws and enforcement of the election and campaign finance laws. This information is necessary for the efficient administration of both the state’s election laws and the Citizens’ Election Program. I raise this issue for discussion to emphasize the importance of the need for elections officials and agencies to continue to have access to this information.

We urge the Committee to think carefully about these bills, their implementations and their ramifications, particularly in light of the one-year provision for handling complaints imposed on SEEC pursuant to Public Act 17-2 (June Special Session). Any additional barriers to impede the efficiency and effectiveness of the enforcement process is untenable. 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 the opportunity to present this testimony.

Michael J. Brandi

Executive Director and General Counsel  
State Elections Enforcement Commission