

Dear Senator Mae Flexer, Representative Daniel J. Fox, Vice-Chairs,  
Ranking Members and Distinguished Members of the GAE Committee,

My name is Paula Bacolini. I am a resident of Glastonbury, CT for over 30 years.

I am **testifying in support of HB 5815, An Act Concerning Political Advertising**: To require alterations to photos or illustrations in political advertising to be clearly highlighted in the disclaimer.

During the 2018 election, mail was sent to my home, and was also sent to the homes of constituents of candidates that I was campaigning for. There were anti-Semitic ads use against Sen. Matt Lesser, photo shopped pictures used against Rep; Liz Linehan and others, as well as ads with blatantly false statements used against Rep. Jason Doucette and Sen. Steve Cassano. This practice is beyond the realm of decency and fairness in the election process, where open debate and discussions should be the norm in our society.

I was particularly disturbed by extremely negative and divisive campaigning, including hate based rhetoric and mailings that are anti-Semitic or that purposely stated falsehoods about the opponent. Many of these are sent to voters from organizations that are not even based in CT. It reduces the opportunity to debate the issues and the values that a candidates may have to offer.

I am requesting that the GAE Committee amend the bill to include fines and/or legal consequences for people and organizations that engage in such behavior. This should be a violation of election laws. Some of these ads also may have come from organizations that were out of state, and CT's elections should not be tampered with, given that we have the Citizen's Election Program, to limit the role of private money in Connecticut's elections.

I urge the Committee to vote Yes for HB 5815, and to add legal consequences for such behaviors. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,  
Paula Bacolini  
Glastonbury ,CT