Senator Flexer, Representative Fox, Senator Sampson, Representative France and distinguished Committee members. Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill No. 1095, An Act Concerning Municipal Ethics.

This bill requires all municipalities to have a municipal code of ethics that has, at a minimum, basic ethics provisions that would apply to municipal officials and employees.

In 2018, the Citizen’s Ethics Advisory Board’s Subcommittee on Municipal Ethics (“Subcommittee”) held a number of public meetings during which it discussed with various stakeholders the status of municipal ethics in Connecticut. As members of the Subcommittee we approached municipalities and local governmental organizations throughout the state to understand their concerns about governmental ethics. We also conducted a survey of municipalities to see how municipalities deal with ethics issues.

Based on these discussions and the results of the survey, we concluded that each municipality should have an ethics code that, at a minimum, has basic ethics provisions commonly found in municipal governments, regardless of their size.

In crafting this legislative proposal, we were especially sensitive to fiscal concerns raised by some stakeholders. We believe this bill is responsive to those concerns.

Residents of Connecticut towns and cities are entitled to have a government whose officials and employees uphold highest ethical standards and who are provided with clear and basic guidelines to help them uphold such standards.

We encourage members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee to support this bill.

Mary Bigelow, Chair of the Subcommittee
Charles Chiusano
Beth Cook
Cheryl Lipson