Bill No.: HB-5703
Title: AN ACT CONCERNING ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF CURRENCY AS PAYMENT IN LOCAL BUSINESSES.
Vote Date: 3/21/2019
Vote Action: Joint Favorable
PH Date: 2/19/2019

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SPONSORS OF BILL:
Representative Holly Cheeseman

REASONS FOR BILL:
There is an increase of businesses refusing cash as payment and demanding payment by credit card, debit card or digital wallet. This is a discriminatory and harmful practice. Approximately 25% of the population is either unbanked or underbanked, this means no one in the household has a checking or savings account or being underbanked they use other services outside of banking such as payday loans, check cashing services or rent-to-own services.

There are privacy issues in a cashless society; financial transactions are all traceable and recorded digitally. This should be a concern of civil libertarians. Absent cash there would be no transaction that would not be traceable. The state of Massachusetts since 1978 does not allow any retailer discriminate against anyone wanting to use cash. Connecticut should follow suit.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:
None Expressed

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:
Cheeseman, Holly, Representative, State of Connecticut, General Assembly
A cashless society has many concerns, one being that all financial transactions are traceable. When paying with cash there is anonymity that does not exist with electronic transactions. Absent cash, no transaction with which we engage won’t be traceable and stored on a server somewhere. The refusal to accept cash hurts victims of domestic abuse. Abusers may track and monitor credit card purchases to control the victims financial behavior. Connecticut
should follow suit with Massachusetts that in 1978 states no retailer, “shall discriminate against a cash buyer by requiring the use of credit.”

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed

Reported by: Bonnie Gray, Asst. Clerk Date: 03/28/2019