



State of Connecticut General Assembly

STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 630:
AAC The Norwalk Transit District
Transportation Committee
February 27, 2023**

Senator Cohen, Representative Lemar, Senator Hwang, Representative Kennedy and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee, we would like to thank you today for allowing us to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 630, *An Act Concerning the Norwalk Transit District*.

As you well know, bus service in Connecticut is fragmented and dispersed through many different transit districts. We believe that this does a disservice to the residents of Connecticut, and most particular residents of Norwalk. In order for a resident of Norwalk to travel to Stamford requires using multiple buses and takes too much time. Additionally, we in Norwalk have been victims of a transit district that doesn't always take into account the residents' needs.

One only has to look at the multiple attempts the Norwalk Transit District has made to end bus service to Norwalk Community College.^{1 2} This route is a lifeline for residents of Norwalk trying to better themselves by taking classes at Norwalk Community College. With no other way to get to class, most of these students would be forced to withdraw from school if this bus line were to be cut. Yet, we in Norwalk must battle with this out of touch entity to ensure that line is preserved.

We feel that Norwalk would benefit from eliminating the Norwalk Transit District's bureaucracy and merging the bus routes into CT Transit. The funds saved can instead be used to improve bus service in Norwalk and the surrounding communities. With a larger fleet, CT Transit can more easily handle broken down buses. There is greater purchasing power because of economies of scale. With the majority of Norwalk Transit District's operating funds already coming from the State of Connecticut, this just makes sense!

¹ Chapman, Nancy Guenther, *Norwalk Transit District's Cutbacks Fueled by \$3 million Rolling Deficit*. November 15, 20216

<https://www.nancyonnorwalk.com/norwalk-transit-districts-cutbacks-fueled-by-3m-rolling-deficit/>

² Chapman, Nancy Guenther, *Norwalk Transit District Defends Plan to Eliminate NCC Shuttle*. January 24, 2022

<https://www.nancyonnorwalk.com/norwalk-transit-district-defends-plan-to-eliminate-ncc-shuttle/>

We thank the Committee for your time and ask that you give this bill a favorable report. We look forward to working with you as this bill moves forward.

Bob Duff
Senate Majority Leader

Kadeem Roberts
137th House District

Lucy Dathan
142nd House District

Dominique Johnson
143rd House District