

**Testimony in Opposition to Raised Bill No. 5554
AN ACT CONCERNING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE
LEGISLATIVE REGULATION REVIEW COMMITTEE AND
AGENCY REPORTS CONCERNING A REVIEW OF
REGULATIONS**



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My name is Leslie Wolfgang and I am the Director of Public Policy for the Family Institute of Connecticut, and I respectfully oppose Raised Bill No. 5554.

This bill raises a fundamental question that should concern members of both parties:
Should oversight of state agency regulations remain bipartisan, or become subject to single-party control?

For decades, the Legislative Regulation Review Committee has operated with a deliberate balance—equal representation from both major parties and co-chairs from opposite parties. That structure was not accidental. It was designed to ensure that regulations affecting every resident of Connecticut are reviewed with fairness, credibility, and broad input.

This bill removes those safeguards.

It replaces equal representation with proportional representation and eliminates the requirement that leadership be bipartisan. While that may sound like a technical change, in practice it fundamentally alters the character of the committee—from a shared oversight body into one that can be controlled entirely by the majority party.

And that matters, regardless of which party holds that majority today—or tomorrow.

Regulations carry the force of law. They affect businesses, municipalities, schools, healthcare providers, and families across our state. The review of those regulations should not be perceived as partisan or political. It should be trusted.

Bipartisan structure builds that trust. It forces collaboration. It ensures that concerns are heard before decisions are made. And perhaps most importantly, it protects the integrity of the process from shifting political winds.

This becomes especially important when regulations touch on deeply contested and sensitive issues.

For example, Connecticut currently has regulations and policies that place certain limits and guardrails around abortion practices, including conscience protections for doctors, limitations on third trimester abortions and infants born alive.

If the Regulatory Review Committee becomes controlled by a single party, those regulations could be more easily weakened, reinterpreted, or eliminated without meaningful bipartisan scrutiny or by extremism in any one controlling party.

That is precisely why this committee has historically been structured to require balance.

This is not about abortion alone. It is about ensuring that on the most sensitive and consequential issues, decisions are not made unilaterally, but are instead subject to broad-based legislative oversight.

I want to be clear: reasonable people can support improved efficiency and transparency in government. The second section of this bill, requiring annual agency reporting, is a step in that direction.

But the core change in Section 1 moves us away from balance and toward consolidation of power. And once that balance is gone, it will be difficult to restore.

This is not about which party benefits today. It is about preserving a structure that works for both parties over time—and more importantly, for the people of Connecticut.

I respectfully urge the Committee to reject Section 1 of this bill, or at a minimum, preserve the bipartisan composition and leadership requirements that have long ensured fairness and credibility in the regulatory review process.

Thank you for your time and consideration.