

**TESTIMONY REGARDING
SPENDING CAP COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING 10/13/16**

BRET I. HERMAN, an attorney duly admitted to practice law in the State of New York, and full-time resident of Connecticut, affirms the following under the penalties of perjury:

1. I practice law in New York City, but **I reside in Weston, Connecticut, and have been a resident of Connecticut since 1994.**

2. I STRONGLY urge the Spending Cap Commission to include ALL pension costs and pension liabilities in the definition of “Spending” regarding a State Spending Cap and the implementation of the State of Connecticut Spending Cap Constitutional Amendment.

3. To do otherwise -- and not include such pension costs and liabilities in the definition of “Spending” -- would be contrary to simple logic and reason (notwithstanding whatever excuses and “rationalizations” some may proffer). If the State of Connecticut is obligated to pay pension costs and pension liabilities, and the State only has a certain amount of money to spend, then how can such a significant expenditure as pension costs and pension liabilities be excluded from “spending” and from the State’s fiscal considerations in setting a budget, taxes, etc.? If I acted that way personally and spent more than I have, I would be bankrupt in a short period of time, as the State will undoubtedly become if it acts in such an irresponsible manner. And increasing taxes and/or debt is certainly not the answer, nor what I, nor any other resident of Connecticut wants to hear.

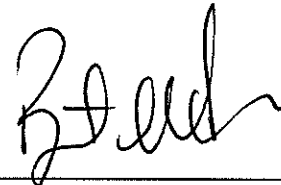
4. I have been advised that our State is, or is about to shortly become, in significant financial trouble. If the Spending Cap Commission were to not include pension costs and pension liabilities in the definition of “Spending”, the Commission would just be going down the

same path of fiscal irresponsibility, would be kicking the can down the road, and would simply not be doing its job in attempting to avoid the State's financial demise.

5. I, like many others, have a choice of where to live. If my State acts in such an irrational and irresponsible manner, as I believe it would be in not including pension costs and liabilities in the definition of "Spending," I, again like many others, would, and should, move to a State in which I can trust and believe to act rationally and responsible for the benefit of, and in the best interests of, its residents.

6. I strongly urge the Commission to please, please, please, act rationally and be fiscally responsible, and include pension costs and pension liabilities in the definition of "Spending," so that I, and many others, can trust our leadership, and can believe that our State legislators are making decisions in the best interests of our State.

Dated: October 13, 2016



BRET I. HERMAN