



## Consequences of PRI Staff Reduction

### Impact of Reducing Oversight

The Office of the Program Review and Investigations Committee understands the serious nature of the current budget reality. The state's economic condition poses a severe threat to the integrity of state programs and services.

Established by statute in 1972 during an era of government reform, the bipartisan Program Review and Investigations (PRI) committee and its team of professional non-partisan research staff annually conduct long-term, in-depth research of the state's largest programs and public policy issues.

The proposal to cut the majority of the staff of the PRI Committee weakens the legislative decision making process and its ability to promote efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability in state government. Now, more than ever, the legislature needs its dedicated oversight committee to ensure that the programs that are funded are being administered in the most effective and efficient ways.

Rather than cutting over half of the staff of the office, the state, and the legislature in particular, should utilize its oversight staff to examine programs with an increased focus on finding the savings that must be relied upon to make sure that the scarce resources are allocated wisely in the coming years.

### Smart Government

The PRI committee promotes the use of performance measures and data to drive governmental decision-making and budgeting. Given authority to raise and report legislation since 1985, the committee has made countless recommendations for state agency action and statutory changes including:

- The office staffed the **Commission on Enhancing Agency Outcomes**, generating a comprehensive report that identified the potential for over **\$400 million in savings**.
- **Drone Use Regulation** - recommended creating a prohibition on weaponized drones and balancing safety and privacy when incorporating this emerging technology.
- **Re-employment of Older Workers** – resulting in increased funding being directed to the programs PRI identified as having the highest job placement rates.
- **Provision of Selected Services for Clients with Intellectual Disabilities** – found on average, the costs of residential services were 2.5 times higher in publicly operated community residences than ones supported by a private nonprofit agency, even when controlling for client level of need. Since the report was issued in January 2012, several major changes have occurred in service delivery to residents with intellectual disabilities and the pace to move more clients from the public system to a private-provider system of services has been accelerated.
- **Access to Substance Use Treatment for Insured Youth** Several of the report's recommendations regarding utilization review, mental health parity, and state oversight were incorporated into Public Act (P.A) 13-3, as part of the Connecticut General Assembly's comprehensive legislative response to the December 14, 2012 Sandy Hook school shooting in Newtown, Connecticut.
- **Federal Revenue Maximization** – led to changes in OPM management of federal grant applications, including streamlined centralization of the grant process.
- **Medicaid: Improper Payments** – recommended efficiencies to the state's Medicaid fraud identification process.