

**KEVIN LEMBO**  
STATE COMPTROLLER



**MARTHA CARLSON**  
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
OFFICE *of the* STATE COMPTROLLER  
55 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

**Written Testimony of  
Comptroller Kevin Lembo  
February 22, 2016**

**An Act Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations for General Government**

Good afternoon Senator Cassano, Representative Jutila, Senator McLachlan, Representative Smith, and Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony on Section 24 of House Bill 5049, An Act Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations for General Government.

I would like to raise significant concerns about the proposal in Section 24 to move the grant funds for certain designated programs into my agency. I believe the overarching goals – improved protections, monitoring and transparency mechanisms – are vital, but the question is where in state government are the oversight and administration of these programs most appropriately placed. Agencies like the Department of Economic and Community Development, the Office of Policy and Management, and perhaps Legislative Management, currently perform many of the functions being discussed, including evaluating competitive grant proposals and overseeing grantee performance. Placing the administration of this new program in an agency that already performs these functions would improve efficiency by avoiding the need for my agency to create duplicative administrative capacity. During this time of limited resources, we should be looking to leverage existing capabilities and avoid duplicating functions.

In addition to the inherent inefficiency of placing the program's administration in the Comptroller's Office, the public should have a clear understanding of how funding decisions for these programs are being made and by whom. Ultimately these decisions are made between the legislature and the Governor's administration. If the collective decision to fund a program is made by the legislature and the Governor, then it should be the responsibility of the legislature and the Governor to monitor and supervise the program.

Thank you very much for your time. I am pleased to answer any additional questions that you may have.