



Testimony on Senate Bill 698

Submitted by Isabel Blank, External Affairs Manager
February 21, 2019

Good afternoon distinguished members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. My name is Isabel Blank. I am Manager, External Affairs at the Yankee Institute for Public Policy, and I am writing to testify in support of **Senate Bill No. 698: An Act Concerning Complaints of Workplace Violence or Abusive Conduct Involving State Employees**. For questions or follow up, please contact me at isabel@yankeeinstitute.org.

Requiring that the Department of Administrative Services report the number of complaints of bullying or abusive conduct involving state employees to the Governor and the General Assembly is a simple and straightforward way to improve transparency in our government.

We have all been made aware of deeply disturbing instances serious misconduct at government-run facilities in recent years. While we hope and trust that such instances are rare, we must provide robust protections for all citizens, especially the particularly vulnerable populations that are often the recipients of government care.

Senate Bill 698 will ensure that the legislature and general public are not only aware of these issues and their frequency, but also that policies and procedures to prevent, report, evaluate and investigate such complaints are provided. This will go a long way in increasing transparency and improving policy and procedure to support the well-being of our state workers and efficiency of state departments.

For these reasons, we urge you to support **Senate Bill 698**.