



Testimony on Senate Bill 682

Submitted by Isabel Blank, External Affairs Manager

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Good afternoon distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections 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 682: An Act Concerning State Employee Reporting of Wasteful Practices**. For questions or follow up, please contact me at isabel@yankeeinstitute.org.

Making spending cuts and finding areas for financial savings is difficult in large organizations. This is especially true for the largest employer in Connecticut—the state government. This bill empowers workers to find savings for the state that under normal conditions would likely go unnoticed and opens the state to a more comprehensive spending audit. This is especially important now, as the state is under increasing financial strain.

We suggest including a cap on the award amount paid. The cap should be high enough to still incentivize disclosure, but is important to include, as a simple percentage of savings could be enormous depending on the size of the savings.

Just as merit pay is not included in pensionable compensation, the awards that this bill creates should also be excluded from pensionable compensation.

This bill is a creative way to find new cost-saving measures in the state and empower individuals to ensure they and their departments are as effective as possible. For these reasons—and with the addition of a cap and pension exclusions—we support this bill.