



**Testimony  
Betsy Gara  
Executive Director  
Connecticut Council of Small Towns  
Before the Government Administration & Elections Committee  
March 4, 2024**

- **HB-5306 - AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN JOB PROTECTIONS RELATED TO MUNICIPAL CHIEF ELECTIVE OFFICE.**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) appreciates the opportunity to testify in **support** of **HB-5306**, which provides certain job protections to employees who (1) are candidates for, (2) hold, or (3) have been elected to but do not yet hold, the office of chief elected official of a municipality.

Connecticut's mayors, first selectmen and first selectwomen, work tirelessly on behalf of the communities they serve, including nights, weekends, and holidays. We appreciate the commitment and sacrifices that they make as leaders of our communities.

By providing individuals seeking office as a municipal chief elected official with protection from losing their job or otherwise being disciplined, or penalized by their employer, HB-5306 will allow a greater number of individuals to run for office on the local level.

Currently, under Section 2-3a of the general statutes, candidates for the office of representative or senator in the General Assembly, are afforded similar protections, recognizing that supporting individuals interested in serving the public is important as a matter of policy.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of HB-5306.