

May 11, 2015

2015 CT State Budget Testimony

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When I was a boy, I did a lot of rabbit hunting on my relative's farms in Iowa. This put food on the table and helped prevent crop damage. I found that of the 20 plus pellets in the shot gun shell only two or three hit their mark. The rest were wasted.

Institutions solve problems with several new procedures and rules. Like my rabbit story, only a few of these regulations are effective. The others are a waste or even create new problems.

Private sector institutions are forced by economic cycles to review and eliminate the procedures that are of no benefit or they will go out of business.

Inefficient governments do not go out of business; they only increasing taxes and fees. This hurts everyone in the state. Games are played to make it appear that someone else will pay the tax, but we all suffer from the burdensome and costly government. Even government employees suffer. They get frustrated with a bureaucracy that prevents them from being productive, and they may lose their retirement benefits if the state eventually has its day of reckoning.

Wise leaders recognize the situation and take action to simplify the business of government.

Now is the time for wise leaders to step forward and streamline our state government so that the people of Connecticut can enjoy more freedom and prosperity.

## CT State Budget Comments, 2015

Facts that must be considered in any budget proposal:

- Cannot reduce state union workforce because of prior agreements.
- Revenue declined because of poor economy not tax reductions.
- Spending has increased faster than population growth and inflation.

General Discussion:

Normally, I would recommend out sourcing more state work to reduce cost. But this will not reduce cost since the state work force cannot be reduced. Under this situation it is better to move work into the state bureaucracy. This must be done without increasing the work force or the use of overtime. We must rely on increased productivity. This can be driven by strict budget requirements. The departments must learn that where there is a will there is a way. I can give examples of how this has worked.

Across the board cuts are usually criticized, but there is no other way to attack a problem as large as this budget issue. The legislators cannot have enough understanding of the day to day operation to establish effective cuts. They need to rely on the various departments to optimize their operations to produce maximum results within the available funds.

Each department must be tasked with identifying how they would operate with a budget cut of at least twice what is needed to balance the state budget. Once this has been done, the internal and external customers of the departments can review the proposed cuts and determine what elements of the total cuts need to be preserved with the knowledge that the final budget for each department must be maintained at the reduced level that will result in a balanced budget for the state.\*

Each government funded or subsidized municipality, for profit business and non-profit organization must perform the same process.

Meanwhile we eliminate all unfunded mandates and burdensome regulations that add cost to the operation of the state's municipalities, hospitals and businesses. This is necessary to improve our economy so that more state revenue is generated.

This whole concept must be sold to the voters. They need to understand the concept and how it is necessary to take the hard steps if we want to reach the top of the mountain.

Non profits need to rely on individual donations instead of the government. An improving economy will put money in the hands of the individual. They can then receive the benefit of knowing their money is going to the cause of their choice instead of being taken in the form of taxes and given to the non-profits that are favorites of the bureaucrats.

An example of charities that make the politically correct bureaucratic cut can be seen on the CT State Income tax form: AIDS Research, Organ Transplant, Endangered Species/Wildlife, Breast Cancer Research, Safety Net Services, Military Relief, and CHET Baby Scholar. These may all be valid charities, but there are many others that are being discriminated against by not being on the list. The same happens in the support that is given to non-profits as part of the budget process. This has to stop.

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