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HB 6440—An Act Concerning the Organized Militia and the Governor’s Guards
Veterans’ and Military Affairs Committee
January 30, 2025

Good afternoon Co-Chairs Honig and Foster, Vice Chairs Lesser and Delany, Ranking Members Gordon and Anderson, and members of the Veterans’ and Military Affairs Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in opposition to HB 6440, which seeks to transition the Governor’s Guard from an organized state militia to a private military force. While I acknowledge the concerns that have prompted this proposed legislation, I firmly believe that the best path forward is not privatization but rather state-led reform and oversight to preserve one of Connecticut’s oldest and most historically significant institutions.

Since the 18th century, the Governor’s Guard has been a symbol of Connecticut’s military heritage and civic service. It has played a role in the Revolutionary War, escorted U.S. presidents and foreign dignitaries, and continues to represent the state in official ceremonies.

This deep-rooted history cannot be separated from its official status. Privatization would sever the Guard’s connection to the state, making it impossible to not only maintain the costs of facilities but also the long-standing traditions. Without state funding, its ceremonial role and military legacy would be diminished.

The best course of action is not privatization but targeted reforms that address the existing concerns while keeping the Guard under state authority. Removing it from the organized militia would weaken an institution that has served Connecticut for centuries. I urge the committee to reject HB 6440 and instead work toward solutions that increase oversight while preserving the Guard’s role as a respected institution.