

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTE

February 16, 2023

Statement of Michael J. Brandi, Executive Director & General Counsel State Elections Enforcement Commission

Co-Chairs Senator Osten and Representative Walker, Ranking Members Senator Berthel and Representative Nuccio, and honorable members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony on the Governor's Budget for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025. I am Michael Brandi, the Executive Director and General Counsel for the State Elections Enforcement Commission. The mission of the State Election Enforcement Commission ("SEEC") is to administer and enforce the provisions of the Connecticut's election laws and to thereby ensure the public's confidence in the electoral process.

In the Governor's proposed budget there are no changes made to our requested budget and for that we would like to thank him. With regard to our agency, we hope that this committee will accept his budget as proposed. Our budget is pretty straightforward: it largely consists of personnel costs along with their respective payroll increases, technology upgrades, and a bare minimum for operating expenses. We are not asking for any increases or requesting any changes to the proposed budget.

We fully recognize that the State continues, as always, to face difficult budgetary decisions. We will continue to perform our core roles as a watchdog agency, adjusting to shifting circumstances, and setting priorities to use limited resources in the most efficient manner possible.

Thank you for your consideration.