

**Testimony of Rep. Charlie Stallworth**  
**House Bill #5886**  
**Planning and Development Committee**  
**Friday, February 13, 2015**

Good (morning/afternoon) Representative Miller, Senator Osten, and members of the Planning and Development Committee. My name is Charlie Stallworth and I represent the 126<sup>th</sup> Assembly District in Bridgeport. Thank you for the opportunity to address you today.

I am in support of House Bill #5886, An Act Prohibiting Municipal Employees From Serving On Certain Municipal Legislative Bodies.

I believe this is a good measure as employees of any municipality that serve on boards that make budgetary decisions may be vulnerable to administrative or political pressure. Separating the two will make for better municipal government, as it will allow our local elected officials to govern without concern about possible repercussions.

What we are also seeking to do with this bill is to address public perception and trust in a system that many times seems to be removed from everyday life. I have heard from many constituents that have urged me to support this bill as a way to improve the way the public views our municipal government.

We need to address this loophole in state statute that allows some cities and towns to bypass their City Charters, allowing municipal employees to serve on local boards that make budgetary decisions. I supported this bill last time around with the inclusion of a grandfather clause, and I support it this time without one.

I ask for the Planning and Development Committees support of this bill and thank you all again for giving me the opportunity to address the committee today.