



Legislative Testimony  
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**Written Testimony Opposing  
House Bill 5515, An Act Concerning the Authority of a  
Zoning Commission to Regulate the Brightness and  
Illumination of Advertising Signs and Billboards**

Senator Doyle, Senator Kissel, Representative Tong, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Kaley Lentini, and I am legislative counsel for the ACLU of Connecticut (ACLU-CT). I am submitting this testimony in opposition to House Bill 5515, An Act Concerning the Authority of a Zoning Commission to Regulate the Brightness and Illumination of Advertising Signs and Billboards, to voice the ACLU-CT's concerns with the bill.

The ACLU-CT works to protect free speech. Billboard advertisements are a form of commercial speech and as such they are protected by the First Amendment. We submit this testimony to flag our concerns that free speech protections may be abridged if the government applies brightness and illumination rules in an uneven way that favors or disfavors certain advertisement subjects or viewpoints. It is important that government regulation of the brightness and illumination of advertising signs and billboards is content neutral to ensure that certain types of speech are not silenced and that the government does not rig the system to allow only the voices it agrees with to be heard. Protections must be put in place to address these concerns.

For these reasons, we urge this committee to oppose House Bill 5515.