



Legislative Testimony
765 Asylum Avenue, First Floor
Hartford, CT 06105
860-523-9146
www.acluct.org

**Written Testimony Opposing House Bill 6876, An Act
Concerning the Copying of Public Records by Using a Hand-Held Scanner**

Senator Flexer, Representative Fox, and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

My name is David McGuire, and I am executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut (ACLU-CT). I am submitting this testimony in opposition to House Bill 6876, An Act Concerning the Copying of Public Records by Using a Hand-Held Scanner.

As an organization that values government transparency and accessibility, the ACLU-CT supports people having access to records created by public agencies. We believe this bill would stifle people's accessibility to information they have a right to obtain.

House Bill 6876 would make it more expensive for people to obtain the public information they seek from public agencies. People should not be required to pay for simply electronically copying documents. Allowing a member of the public to use their personal hand-held scanner, cell phone, or camera to copy public records does not cost the public agency, and it should not cost the public. The fees that would be charged under this bill would be cost-prohibitive for some people, making them unable to access public records.

If this bill passes into law, it has the potential to make public documents unaffordable to everyday people. The ACLU-CT urges you to oppose this bill.