

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

Written Testimony Supporting House Bill 6193, An Act Subjecting Certain Nonstate Entities that Serve a Governmental Function to the Freedom of Information Act and the Codes of Ethics

Senator Flexer, Representative Fox, Ranking Members Sampson and Mastrofrancesco, and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

My name is Kelly McConney Moore, and I am the interim senior policy counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut (ACLU-CT). I am testifying in support of House Bill 6193, An Act Subjecting Certain Nonstate Entities that Serve a Governmental Function to the Freedom of Information Act and the Codes of Ethics.

The ACLU-CT is an organization committed to open government. Few things ensure that a government effectively serves its people as much as transparency. The ACLU-CT, therefore, advocates for making and keeping governmental records open and available to all people in the widest possible range of circumstances. People who are appointed to serve on boards or entities that are neither public nor quasipublic, but which nonetheless serve a governmental function, should be subject to transparency requirements regarding their work on matters that relate to that governmental function. It is, however, important to ensure that people who would be deemed public officials under this bill are not subjected to broad-based inquiries into any other work they do or correspondence unrelated to the governmental function. If the scope of transparency requirements for people designated as public officials under this bill is limited to their governmental function work, then we support this bill as an important step to ensuring open government, and would encourage this Committee to support it as well.