



State of Connecticut
HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONN. 06106

January 7, 2026

Senator Catherine Osten
Senate Chair, Appropriations Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 3300
Hartford, CT 06106

Representative Toni E. Walker
House Chair, Appropriations Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2701
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senator Osten and Representative Walker:

We write to request the immediate reinstatement of the Appropriations Committee's Results-Based Accountability (RBA) subcommittee, which was re-named to the Accountability subcommittee and then eliminated in 2023. At that time our caucus questioned the committee Administrator why the change was made and learned that it was at the request of the Chairs. We continue to believe this was a mistake.

The nationwide conversation about government spending has intensified following recent revelations of massive fraud in social services programs in Minnesota, and here in Connecticut, where a federal criminal probe into how state and federal money was provided to nonprofit organizations. These cases underscore a fundamental truth: without rigorous oversight and accountability measures, taxpayer dollars become potential targets for perpetrators of waste and abuse. Connecticut cannot afford to ignore potential pathways to abuse of taxpayer funds.

Our state once led on this work. Through 2015, the Appropriations Committee embraced results-based accountability as the backbone of budget oversight. Agency heads graded program effectiveness, legislators analyzed funding impact to nonprofits and other recipients, and the public could review agency report cards online. This transparency created opportunities for real accountability for how tax dollars were spent.

That commitment has vanished. RBA efforts began declining around 2015, and your decision to reimagine the subcommittee, and then ultimately eliminate all efforts in this regard in 2023, continues to concern our caucus. Connecticut now builds multi-billion-dollar budgets without systematically measuring whether programs achieve their stated goals or whether investments deliver value to taxpayers. In fact, during the budget debate last session we asked multiple questions about new allocations for non-profits and were met with irritation and disregard for the very sunlight our taxpayers deserve.

Taxpayers deserve to know whether their dollars spent on government and non-government programs produce results. Agency heads should be required to defend their effectiveness. Legislators should be expected to analyze outcomes at non-governmental entities before appropriating funds and provide for scrutiny in a public forum—not simply allow a third branch of government to make those decisions behind closed doors and issue reports that are neither timely nor transparent. The RBA subcommittee provided these critical functions. Its elimination removed a crucial check on government spending that would be as beneficial today as it was a decade ago.

We respectfully urge you to reinstate the Results-Based Accountability subcommittee and the report card-based outcomes that were once the hallmark of state budgeting in Connecticut, for the 2026 legislative session. We would also recommend that analyses are performed on funding to community-based organizations and consider a cohesive form be submitted by legislators who are making funding requests on behalf of these organizations during the Appropriations process, before their allocation should be considered.

Connecticut residents work hard for their money. Their government should work equally hard to spend it wisely and prove results. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Representative Vincent Candelora
House Republican Leader House



Representative Tammy Nuccio
Ranking Member Appropriations Committee

cc: Matt Ritter- Speaker of the House
Martin M. Looney- Senate President Pro Tempore
Stephen Harding- Senate Republican Leader