



ACTION ALERT

Spending Cap Commission Regional Public Hearings

October 5 through November 16

The Spending Cap Commission will hold five hearings across Connecticut during the months of October and November. Please consult your calendar and choose which regional public hearing you are able to participate in.

- **October 13, 4 PM - Bridgeport.** City Council Chambers, City Hall, 45 Lyon Terrace, Bridgeport.
- **October 19, 4 PM - New Haven.** Venue to be determined.
- **October 26, 4 PM - Windham.** Venue to be determined.
- **November 16, 4 PM - Waterbury.** Venue to be determined.

These hearings are **important**, with **long term potential consequences** for the state budget.

The spending cap is a budget tool created in 1991 following a constitutional amendment. As its name implies, this tool "caps" the amount that the state can spend in any given year. **Applying the cap requires interpretation of three terms:**

- The definition of **personal income** and the definition of **inflation**. They are used to calculate the year-over-year growth allowed in the state budget.
- The definition of "**general budget expenditures**"- the only portion of the state budget actually "capped" by the constitution.

The Spending Cap Commission has been charged with crafting definitions for these terms and is seeking public comment and recommendations.

The hearings are an opportunity to weigh in on just how broadly the constitutional spending cap will be defined and applied. **This has serious implications for the state:** a restrictive cap will challenge Connecticut's ability to make strategic investments in everything from roads and bridges to schools and social services.

Some members of the Commission have advocated for putting all state expenditures under the cap, including all of the accrued liability for unfunded state employee pensions. **Were payments on pension debt included under the cap, the ballooning obligations would crowd out essential programs and services.**

So these hearings *really* matter.

Now you can have your say! Let lawmakers know that investing in children and families is the cornerstone of a fiscally responsible state government.

Please consider showing up and making your voice heard - [Instructions](#) for sign-up are below. You may also submit written testimony by e-mail at APPtestimony@cga.ct.gov.

SUBMITTING TESTIMONY

The procedure for the public hearing is as follows:

- Sign-up for the hearing will begin at 3:00 PM.
- Sign-up will be conducted on a first come, first served basis.
- Please submit 25 copies of written testimony to commission staff at the time of sign-up.

Written testimony may be submitted in Word or PDF format to APPtestimony@cga.ct.gov for inclusion on the Commission website. For more information on the hearings, click [here](#).

Questions may be directed to Susan Keane, Commission Administrator, at susan.keane@cga.ct.gov