



State of Connecticut
HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

The Honorable Martin M. Looney
Senate President Pro Tempore
Legislative Office Building
Room 3300
Hartford, CT 06106

The Honorable Joe Aresimowicz
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Legislative Office Building
Room 4110
Hartford, CT 06106

October 15th, 2019

Dear Caucus Leaders,

As you may recall, Section 216 of Public Act 17-2 requires committees of cognizance and the Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee to hold hearings regarding State Auditors' reports of state agencies. The hearings must be held within 180 days from the time the report is submitted to the legislature.

To date, there are 37 audit reports that are overdue for hearings, and there are 33 other reports that will need to be heard over the next 180 days. (See the attached list for details). While some of the reports show minor, technical deficiencies at state agencies and may not warrant a hearing, other audits reports reveal disturbing problems including:

- Agency decisions that violate both state policy and union contracts. These are areas where the state and unions agree, and agencies are not following set procedures.
- Workplace violence complaints
- IT security issues
- Benefit payments to deceased individuals
- Abuse of overtime
- Abuse of comp and vacation time
- Excessive revisions to purchase orders without appropriate approvals
- Unauthorized payouts for remaining comp time
- Lost or stolen state property
- Unauthorized rehiring of retired state employees
- Lacking internal audits
- Massive financial reporting errors
- Lack of program review

These types of problems seem to arise almost on a daily basis. Just the other day, the Department of Agriculture audit revealed that the department accumulated 170 checks worth more than \$265,000 over a period of five months. This is baffling. How does something like this go on for such an extended period time without department employees noticing? A second report identified a lawsuit filed by minority employees of the Department of Labor, claiming racial discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. This is the second time the same group of employees is filing the lawsuit because the situation did not improve after the first complaint.

With the publication of each audit report, we grow more and more concerned about the lack of management and control in the operation of state government. Together, as part of the bipartisan budget of 2017, Republicans and Democrats established these hearings as the next step in the process that starts with the excellent work of the State Auditors in identifying and fixing problems in state government. The hearings provide transparency to the people of the state, who pay for the state to operate smoothly. It is incredibly frustrating to see that the work we did together is being ignored.

Recently, state leaders have been very critical of the state's quasi-public agencies, often, for good reason. And we properly call public attention to those problems through the news media. However, you, as policy makers, and the Governor, as the chief executive of the state, have ignored and done nothing to call attention to some very serious problems at state agencies.

We are particularly concerned about the audit reports of the Departments of Labor, Motor Vehicles (including their IT system), Charter Oak State College, Developmental Services, Education, Social Services, and Correction.

Therefore, we are respectfully requesting that you direct the Chairpersons of the appropriate committees to review their respective agency audits and begin holding public hearings so that we may better understand department deficiencies, as well as measures that the department has taken or will take in the future to resolve deficiencies. We recommend that the appropriate agency personnel, as well as representatives from the State Auditors' Office be invited to testify relating to the audit report.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.



Themis Klarides
House Republican Leader



Vincent Candelora
Deputy House Republican Leader

Cc: Senator Len Fasano

Agency / Program Audit	Audit Report Issued	Hearing Deadline
Charter Oak State College Foundation, Inc.	12/7/2017	6/5/2018
Comptroller - State Financial Operations	12/29/2017	6/27/2018
Secretary of the State	1/9/2018	7/8/2018
DAS Avatar System Information Technology Security	1/17/2018	7/16/2018
SPECIAL: Statewide Purchasing Card Program	2/8/2018	8/7/2018
Connecticut Green Bank	2/15/2018	8/14/2018
PERFORMANCE: Private Providers of Special Education	2/22/2018	8/21/2018
PERFORMANCE: SDE Approval Process of Private Special Education Programs and Oversight of Non-approved Programs	2/22/2018	8/21/2018
PERFORMANCE: Monitoring of Contracts or Other Arrangements between Local and Regional Boards of Education and Private Providers of Special Education	2/22/2018	8/21/2018
Judicial Department	2/27/2018	8/26/2018
SPECIAL: Interim Report on the DECD 2017 Annual Report	4/24/2018	10/21/2018
Probate Court Administrator - Fiscal Years: 2013,2014,2015	4/27/2018	10/24/2018
Social Services, Department of - Fiscal Years: 2012,2013	5/3/2018	10/30/2018
DESPP - Fiscal Years: 2012,2013,2014	5/16/2018	11/12/2018
Housing, Department of - Fiscal Years: 2014,20015	6/7/2018	12/4/2018
Capitol Region Development Authority - Fiscal Years: 2015,2016	7/9/2018	1/5/2019
Rehabilitation Services, Department of - Fiscal Years: 2015,2016	7/10/2018	1/6/2019
Connecticut Innovations Incorporated - Fiscal Years: 2015,2016	7/26/2018	1/22/2019
Human Rights and Opportunities, Commission on - Fiscal Years: 2013,2014,2015,2016	8/1/2018	1/28/2019
Governmental Accountability, Office of - Fiscal Years: 2012,2013,2014	8/28/2018	2/24/2019
Judicial Department	8/30/2018	2/26/2019
Department of Correction	9/4/2018	3/3/2019

Charter Oak State College Foundation, Inc. - Fiscal Years: 2018	9/19/2018	3/18/2019
SPECIAL:Evaluation of the Revised Department of Economic and Community Development 2017 Annual Report	9/21/2018	3/20/2019
Treasurer - Departmental Operations - Fiscal Years: 2015,2016	10/10/2018	4/8/2019
Education, Department of - Fiscal Years: 2012,2013,2014,2015	11/1/2018	4/30/2019
Developmental Services, Department of - Fiscal Years: 2014,2015,2016	11/15/2018	5/14/2019
Central Connecticut State University - Fiscal Years: 2013,2014	11/20/2018	5/19/2019
Motor Vehicles, Department of - Fiscal Years: 2013,2014,2015	12/5/2018	6/3/2019
Teachers' Retirement Board - Fiscal Years: 2016,2017	12/19/2018	6/17/2019
Treasurer - State Financial Operations - Fiscal Years: 2018	12/31/2018	6/29/2019
Central Connecticut State University-NCAA - Fiscal Years: 2017	1/10/2019	7/9/2019
Comptroller - State Financial Operations - Fiscal Years: 2018	1/16/2019	7/15/2019
PERFORMANCE:Department of Public Health's Monitoring and Enforcement of Safe Drinking Water Laws - 02/21/2019	2/21/2019	8/20/2019
Aging, Department of - Fiscal Years: 2016,2017	3/27/2019	9/23/2019
Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority - Fiscal Years: 2016,2017	4/4/2019	10/1/2019
Workers' Compensation Commission - Fiscal Years: 2016,2017	4/10/2019	10/7/2019