

Submitter: Branden Dross

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
General Government

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5016

Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Branden Dross, and I serve as a public CEO. I'm here to voice my strong support for HB 5016.

As someone responsible for managing public resources and services, I can tell you firsthand that staffing is the backbone of effective governance. The current staffing allocation of one FTE for each elected official outside of session is not only inadequate—it fails to reflect the real, year-round demands of public service.

Staffing a district of 65,000 constituents is not a part-time job. Between constituent services, policy development and review, administrative duties, outreach, and all the unseen operational tasks, it is simply unrealistic to expect this work to be sustained by a single full-time staffer. We risk not only burnout but also diminishing the quality of representation and responsiveness our communities deserve.

I urge you to reconsider staffing allocations in a way that matches the scale and complexity of modern legislative work. HB 5016 takes important steps toward that goal, and I ask for your support.

Thank you.