

Nonpartisan Program Review Staff Cut By Over 50%, or \$750,000, in Budget Plan

- The Program Review and Investigations Committee is charged with asking these questions about government programs: Are they effective? Do they continue to serve their intended purposes? Are they conducted in an efficient and effective manner? Do they require modification or elimination?
- These questions are at the root of legislative oversight *and* any effort to fundamentally restructure state government.
- Yet the non-partisan professional staff that assists the PRI committee to fulfill its charge is being “reduced” by \$750,000, more than a 50% budget cut.
- PRI staff would be reduced from 12 people to 5.
- This is the *only* targeted cut to nonpartisan professional committee staff.

Clear Record of PRI Committee Use

- As recently as the last day of the session, the Senate gave final approval to a measure requiring PRI to evaluate tax credit usage and outcomes (in lieu of DECD) every three years and report findings, beginning in February 2018.
- Demonstrating the importance to the Senate, PRI was required during the June 2015 special session to help the mandatory one-time collection of car dealers’ conveyance fees and submit a report on January 15, 2016. PRI staff was able to meet the deadline on behalf of the committee in addition to completing its 2015 studies.¹
- Many more examples exist.

PRI and Staff as Part of the Solution

- **Instead of the cut, PRI could be tasked formally with identifying savings during FY 17 of \$750,000 and reporting on its success.**
- A similar approach was taken in 2010 with CEAO (Commission on Enhancing Agency Outcomes), which was required to come up with a certain level of savings. PRI staffed CEAO, which generated a report identifying the potential for over \$400 million in savings.

¹ Dealer Conveyance Fee Report Link:

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/pri/docs/2015/Dealer%20Conveyance%20Fees%20Charged%20by%20New%20and%20Used%20in%20Connecticut%20and%20Related%20Information.pdf>