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SECRETARY OF THE STATE
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- STATEMENT -

SECRETARY MERRILL ISSUES STATEMENT REGARDING GOVERNOR MALLOY'S VETO OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM BILL

Hartford – Secretary of the State Denise Merrill today issued the following statement regarding Governor Malloy's veto of House Bill No. 5556 "*An Act Concerning Changes to Campaign Finance Laws and Other Election Laws.*"

"HB 5556 was a good faith effort to respond strongly to court decisions like Citizens United that have allowed an avalanche of private special interest money into our election system. Connecticut is a national leader in enacting clean election laws, and there can be no turning back. This bill would have strengthened our existing law in a number of ways, and I strongly support the concept. However, it is unfortunate that such important legislation included a section enacting voting by fax or email. As election technology, email or fax voting is not secure and could expose the electronically submitted ballots to hacking or other interference, calling into question the integrity of votes from our brave military serving overseas. These are citizens who put their lives on the line every day to protect our right to vote, and we should do everything we can to make sure their votes are actually counted with some assurance of accuracy and integrity. The technology that would make electronically submitted ballots secure has not yet been developed, and I am grateful that Governor Malloy concurs with this view. Therefore, I urge our Governor and General Assembly to work out a compromise on improvements to our Citizens Election Program and our response to Citizens United, and to do it soon. Our voters need to know if money or the public good drives our political system."