



Testimony of Lori Pelletier, Secretary-Treasurer Connecticut AFLCIO
before the Labor and Public Employees committee
March 12, 2013

Senator Osten and Representative Tercyak and members of the committee my name is Lori Pelletier and I am here to testify on behalf of the 900 affiliated local unions of the Connecticut AFLCIO. Before you today are a number of bills which we are here in support of. We appreciate the work of this committee and the opportunity to testify today.

H.B. No. 6553 (RAISED) AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE INSURANCE. (LAB) We support this issue. Since first passed FMLA has been a success. It has provided families with protected time off to care for a sick member or themselves without fear of losing their job, or other forms of retaliation. This bill looks at the logical next step of providing for pay when an employee has no other choice but to utilize FMLA.

We offer our assistance in making this bill get onto the Governor's desk as well as working with the Task force on this very important issue.

H.B. No. 6614 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING EMPLOYERS AND HEALTH CARE. (LAB) This issue is an important one to many of our members. Our unions on a daily basis face questions regarding the Affordable Care Act. Contract negotiations are trying to navigate the nuances of the law without injuring employers or our members when trying to comply.

We must be very cautious that the negotiation process between elected union leaders and employers are not forced into a corner when it comes to affordable health care. We welcome the opportunity to be a part of the discussion and thank the committee for the opportunity to express our concerns as this bill moves forward.

Thank you and if you have any questions we would be happy to address them at this time.

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