



Testimony of Matthew Winters, RN
University Health Professionals, AFT Local 3837

Appropriations Committee
March 26, 2021

Senator Osten, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee My name is Matthew Winters and I have been a Registered Nurse at UConn since July of 2020. I am also a member of University Health Professional. I am submitting testimony in opposition to the following bills:

- HB 5149 An Act Excluding Reimbursements to State Employees for Mileage and Payments for Overtime from the Calculation of Retirement Income.
- HB 5750 An Act Excluding Reimbursements for Mileage and Payments for Overtime from the Calculation of Retirement Income.
- HB 5754 An Act Excluding Mileage Reimbursements and Overtime Pay from the Calculation of Retirement Income

Removing overtime from counting toward pension calculations for state employees will severely exacerbate the staffing issues UConn Health faces currently. Administration is already concerned about the amount of overtime being authorized at the health center and wants to reduce it.

Preventing overtime from counting toward the pensions of employees will stop them from volunteering for overtime all-together. Now that might sound like a good thing initially. However, if no one at the Health Center is picking up overtime voluntarily, management will end up having to issue mandatory overtime to employees in order to cover the staffing requirements in all of the various units. Mandatory overtime is paid out in double-time as opposed to voluntary overtime being paid out in time and a half.

This will cost the state a lot more money than voluntary overtime.

If the state is worried about pension costs being too high for state employees, especially at the Health Center, adequately staffing us in the first place would cut down on overtime being handed out that would be counting toward pensions. The citizens in this state deserve to know their representatives care about having a public hospital that provides exceptional care. Part of

providing exceptional care is making sure there is enough staff there to provide it. Do NOT take away overtime counting toward our pensions.

I understand the state is not in great financial standing and the budget for things needs to be adjusted. Cutting from the retirements of its employees is not the place to do it. Especially when it has thousands of employees that work under its healthcare institution that are counting on having that pension for their retirement. We are hopefully reaching the end of a pandemic. We have been working very hard during this pandemic to care for the citizens of this state. Please remember that when considering how to vote for these bills. Fixing the budget should be done in other areas.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

- Matthew Winters, RN