

Testimony of Les Archer
Transportation Maintainer 4 for the Dept. of Transportation
Connecticut Employees Union Independent (CEUI) Local 511
Appropriations Committee
March 26, 2021

In Opposition to H.B. 5149 AN ACT EXCLUDING REIMBURSEMENTS TO STATE EMPLOYEES FOR MILEAGE AND PAYMENTS FOR OVERTIME FROM THE CALCULATION OF RETIREMENT INCOME

In Opposition to H.B. 5209 AN ACT EXCLUDING OVERTIME PAY AND LEGISLATIVE MILEAGE ALLOWANCES FROM THE CALCULATION OF STATE PENSIONS

In Opposition to H.B. 5750 AN ACT EXCLUDING REIMBURSEMENTS FOR MILEAGE AND PAYMENTS FOR OVERTIME FROM THE CALCULATION OF RETIREMENT INCOME

In Opposition to H.B. 5754 AN ACT EXCLUDING MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENTS AND OVERTIME PAY FROM THE CALCULATION OF RETIREMENT INCOME

Good afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Walker, and members of the Appropriations committee. My name is Les Archer and I have been working as a transportation maintainer with the Department of Transportation since April of 1996. I am here to testify against H.B. 5149, H.B. 5209, H.B. 5750, and H.B. 5754 which would specifically exclude overtime pay from being used to calculate state employee pension benefits.

When I was hired at DOT 25 years ago, I took the job knowing that I would be expected to work overtime. It was not a choice; it was mandatory, and I have fulfilled and continue to honor my obligation. Overtime is time worked and is part of the income I have earned. I have worked my entire career knowing that the overtime put in would be included in my benefit calculation. To remove it is unfair and does nothing but discourage dedication and long-term service of employees.

Believe me, there are many times when I would much rather have a normal schedule. Working all night to ensure the people of this State have safe roads to travel on is not an easy job. But when we are called to work, we show up. It is part of the job and the money earned while doing it is real income – what pensions are based on.

Each of these bills, if enacted into law, will severely impact the retirement security of blue-collar workers like myself and my colleagues, putting our retirement security at risk. To do so would be disrespectful of so many workers and our collective bargaining agreement.

I strongly urge you to oppose each of these bills. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Les Archer
48 Cotton Hill Road
New Hartford, CT 06057
snorgg@yahoo.com
(860) 309-7228