

LABOR and PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE

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Senator Prague, Representative Ryan and members of the committee, My name is Cameron Champlin and I represent the United Association of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local Union 777. This testimony is in opposition to HB-5741.

Currently the thresholds for prevailing wage in Connecticut are the second highest in the United States. The reason for Prevailing Wage is to ensure that employees on these projects are paid wages and benefits which the United States Department of Labor, through it's survey, has found are prevalent in that area. Whether a project meets these thresholds or not does not effect the prices that individuals have to pay for such things as groceries, heating oil, gasoline, health care and any other necessities which sustain a household. Perhaps we should consider lowering or doing away with these thresholds to ensure that contractors that are awarded a project funded by our tax dollars cannot exploit their employees without being held accountable.

Remember these wages and benefits also protect the tax payers of Connecticut and contractors that pay their employees livable wages and benefits from having to subsidize health benefits for employees of firms that only consider their profits when bidding on any project that doesn't have built in protection for workers.

SUBMITTED BY CAMERON CHAMPLIN PHONE NUMBER (860) 287-0020