

GOOD AFTERNOON, I'M CHUCK HOWLEY AND FOR THE PAST SEVEN YEARS I'VE WORKED AS A COURT RECORDING MONITOR FOR THE JUDICIAL BRANCH OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT IN THE STAMFORD JUDICIAL DISTRICT.

I WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR AFFORDING ME BOTH THE TIME AND THE OPPORTUNITY TODAY TO SPEAK REGARDING SENATE BILL #1434.

WHEN I WAS HIRED IN 2000, AT MY INITIAL INTERVIEW, I WAS ASSURED THAT I'D BE MADE A PERMANENT JUDICIAL EMPLOYEE WITHIN ONE YEAR. WELL I WASN'T, AND NOW SEVEN YEARS LATER, THERE ARE 600 STATE OF CONNECTICUT JUDICIAL EMPLOYEES JUST LIKE MYSELF. WE NOW COMPRISE OVER 14% OF THE ENTIRE JUDICIAL WORKFORCE AND OUR NUMBERS JUST CONTINUE TO GROW AND GROW...

IN NOT BEING MADE A PERMANENT EMPLOYEE ALL 600 OF US ARE DENIED RECEIVING "ANY" VACATION TIME, SICK TIME, PERSONAL DAYS & HOLIDAY EXCUSALS, ETC... AND WE ALSO HAVE NOT HAD ANY SALARY INCREASE IN THE PAST SEVEN YEARS.

LET ME ASK YOU THIS... IS THERE ANY OTHER STATE OF CONNECTICUT EMPLOYEE HERE TODAY OR ONE THAT YOU MIGHT KNOW OF WHO HASN'T HAD A SALARY INCREASE IN THE LAST SEVEN YEARS?

(PAUSE HERE) THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT...

THIS SENATE BILL #1434 IS A DEFINITE STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, BUT I'M HERE TODAY TO ASK YOU TO INCLUDE WORDING IN THIS BILL MAKING THE 600

OF US STATE OF CONNECTICUT EMPLOYEES NOW PERMANENT JUDICIAL EMPLOYEES. YOU SEE WE ALL PERFORM THE EXACT SAME DUTIES, HAVE THE EXACT SAME RESPONSIBILITIES, AND POSSESS THE EXACT SAME SKILLS AS ALL THE PERMANENT EMPLOYEES WE WORK ALONGSIDE EACH AND EVERYDAY, BUT THAT'S WHERE OUR SIMILARITY ENDS. CONNECTICUT JUDICIAL BRANCH EMPLOYEES WHO ALL PERFORM THE EXACT SAME DUTIES, SHOULD ALL BE RECEIVING SIMILAIR SALARIES AND SIMILAIR BENEFITS. IT'S ONLY RIGHT!

BEING MADE PERMANENT EMPLOYEES ALSO AFFORDS US MEMBERSHIP IN LOCAL 749 OF THE JUDICIAL EMPLOYEES UNION WHOSE NEWLY ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT, ANDREA WILSON, IS TOTALLY IN SUPPORT OF ALL 600 OF US BEING MADE PERMANENT JUDICIAL EMPLOYEES.

TO GIVE YOU A BRIEF HISTORY... IN JULY OF 2005, I FIRST CONTACTED THE JUDICIAL BRANCH REGARDING OUR SITUATION AND AFTER RECEIVING NO RESPONSE RIGHT FROM THE CHIEF COURT ADMINISTRATOR ON DOWN, I NEXT REACHED OUT TO THE STATE LEGISLATURE. AND FOR YOUR INFORMATION THOSE CHIEF COURT ADMINISTRATORS WERE CHIEF JUDGES PELLEGRINO, SULLIVAN AND LAVERY.

THIS INJUSTICE IS A MATTER THAT THE JUDICIAL BRANCH REFUSES TO ADDRESS, BUT THANKFULLY NOT THIS AUGUST BODY, THAT I AM SPEAKING BEFORE TODAY!

ON BEHALF OF "THE FORGOTTEN 600 JUDICIAL EMPLOYEES" THANK YOU FOR SPEAKING UP ON OUR

BEHALF. THIS BILL CAN SEND A MESSAGE LOUD AND CLEAR TO THE JUDICIAL BRANCH TO NOT TREAT THE 600 OF US ANYMORE LIKE THIRD CLASS CITIZENS. ALL WE'RE ASKING FOR IS THAT THIS BILL INCLUDE WORDING TO FINALLY MAKE ALL OF US "WHOLE" BY MAKING US PERMANENT STATE OF CONNECTICUT JUDICIAL BRANCH EMPLOYEES. THANK YOU...

AND MY THANKS TO ALL OF THE FOLLOWING WHOM I EITHER MET WITH, SPOKE TO, OR COMMUNICATED WITH MY MAIL ABOUT OUR SITUATION AND WHO ALL EXPRESSED THEIR SUPPORT.

TO THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE AND ITS CHAIRMAN SENATOR McDONALD FOR ALL THEIR WORK ON THIS BILL...

TO STATE REPRESENTATIVES: LIVVY FLOREN, PAMELA SAWYER, ANTHONY D'AMELIO, LINDA ORANGE, DENISE MERRILL, MICHAEL LAWLOR, KEVIN RYAN & JOHN FREY.

TO STATE SENATORS: WILLIAM NICKERSON, DONALD DEFONZO, TONI HARP AND EDITH PRAGUE, CHAIR OF THE LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE.

I'D NOW BE GLAD TO ANSWER ANY & ALL QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE... AND I THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN.

IF NO ONE ASKS: WHERE ARE THE 600, TELL THEM THAT THEY ARE ALL AT WORK & DIDN'T GET PAID FOR GOOD FRIDAY & WOULDN'T BE PAID FOR TODAY EITHER...