



# State of Connecticut

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Labor and Public Employees Committee  
Public Hearing Testimony  
Tuesday, February 6, 2007

**RANKING MEMBER**  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

**MEMBER**  
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Dear Senator Prague, Senator Guglielmo, Senator Gomes, Representative Ryan, Representative Aman, Representative Zalaski, and Labor and Public Employees Committee Membership:

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to testify on House Bill 6406 "AN ACT CONCERNING CREDIT UNDER TIER II OF THE STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM FOR SERVICE TO A MUNICIPALITY THAT IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM."

I think it goes without saying that the State's primary employment objective should be to hire the best and the brightest. When hiring for vacant or new positions, we frequently draw from within our own ranks as these people already have a certain amount of training and knowledge required for government service. In the Legislature and throughout the various state agencies, we often select individuals who worked for their town government, as their familiarity with local issues and laws makes them the most ideal candidates. Our government runs more efficiently and effectively from the acquired knowledge of these individuals.

Sadly, the State does not always adequately compensate these recruits for their past service. Many people who decide to accept jobs with the State "lose" credit for their past service and are forced to start over with regard to the number of years accrued towards a state pension. Although the State has reciprocity agreements with some towns, I would like to see this expanded to ensure that the talent pool we draw from remains strong and diversified.

I thank the Committee for raising this important bill and ask that it please be given a favorable report. By offering the best benefits we can expect to attract the best employees.