

# 32BJ



# SEIU

**Stronger Together**

SERVICE EMPLOYEES  
INTERNATIONAL UNION  
AFL-CIO, CLC

**MICHAEL P. FISHMAN**  
President

**KEVIN J. DOYLE**  
Executive Vice President

**HÉCTOR J. FIGUEROA**  
Secretary-Treasurer

**KYLE BRAGG**  
Vice President

**LENORE FRIEDLAENDER**  
Vice President

**BRIAN LAMBERT**  
Vice President

**KRYSTYNA ROSARIO**  
Secretary

Online at:  
[www.seiu32bj.org](http://www.seiu32bj.org)

**Local 32BJ Headquarters:**  
101 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, NY 10013-1991  
212.388.3800

**Westchester Office:**  
140 Huguenot Street  
New Rochelle, NY 10801  
914.637.7000

**Connecticut Office:**  
196 Trumbull Street, Suite 400  
Hartford, CT 06103  
860.560.8674  
1.800.228.5253

**Long Island Office:**  
2545 Hempstead Turnpike  
Suite 300  
East Meadow, NY 11554  
516.579.4020

**New Jersey Office:**  
560 Broad Street, 4th Fl.  
Newark, NJ 07102  
973.824.32BJ  
1.866.5JANITOR

**Window Cleaners Division:**  
101 Avenue of the Americas  
20th Floor  
New York, NY 10013  
212.539.2901

**Theater, Amusement  
& Cultural Division**  
101 Avenue of the Americas  
20th Floor  
New York, NY 10013  
212.388.3974

2/27/2007

Testimony of Art Perry CT Political Director SEIU Local 32B/J

Presented to the Labor & Public Employees Committee on  
H.B. No. 7036 (RAISED) AN ACT ELIMINATING THE  
STANDARD WAGE CONTRACT THRESHOLD

Thank you Senator Praque, Representative Ryan and Committee members. I am here today to testify in support of HB 7036 An Act Eliminating the Standard Wage Threshold.

HB 7036 an act eliminating the Standard Wage threshold will bring economic justice to workers that perform custodial duties for contractors that clean State buildings. We support this bill because it will eliminate the hourly wage difference that exists between workers employed on State contracts worth up to \$49,999.00 which does not set a standard wage rate and State contracts worth \$50,000.00 or greater which does have the Standard Wage rate.

This \$50,000 threshold is not fair to those that do the same work on Contracts of lesser value.

Currently the Standard Wage hourly rate for janitors that clean State buildings in the Hartford area is \$11.48 with a benefit rate of \$4.35 which goes towards such benefits as insurance, paid time off and sick leave. Janitors that clean State buildings without the Standard Wage rate are not paid a living wage, most get the CT Minimum wage rate without benefits or very little more but definitely not the same or even close to The CT Standard Wage.

Workers are workers and the wage rate should be the wage rate.

In 2000 the State set an hourly labor rate on the work that it contracts out for and set an example on how to create good jobs, here now in 2007 the State should again set an example on creating good jobs, by setting an hourly rate that will be the hourly rate for the job no matter the value of the Contract. The amount of the contract should not be the determining factor of the workers wages when they are performing the same tasks for the State. The value of the work should be the determining factor and we believe that the State has determined that value with the Standard Wage rate.

We ask that you remove this unfair limitation on wages and that there be one wage rate for each job class regardless of the contract amount. We ask that you fix this problem and that you make the rate for a job class, the rate for that job class. Thank you.