



STATEMENT OF AT&T CONNECTICUT

Regarding Raised House Bill 7326 An Act Concerning Captive Audience Meetings

Before the Judiciary Committee

March 14, 2007

Proposal:

Raised House Bill 7326 would prohibit all employers from requiring that employees attend meetings or participate in communications if the primary purpose is to communicate the employer's opinion on religious or "political matters."

Comments:

AT&T Connecticut opposes RHB 7326 because it is overly broad and it would unreasonably restrict employers' ability to disseminate important information to employees.

AT&T is particularly concerned because the legislation could be used to bar legitimate and important communication from employer to employee, even in situations where it is in employees' best interest to be made aware of matters that concern their employer. AT&T suggests that communications to ensure that employees are aware of and understand the consequences of legislation that affects them directly or indirectly through its impact to their employer, are a matter of corporate responsibility. Similarly, mandatory meetings to inform employees of the existence of organizations or activities intended to effectuate change in public policy that affects their employer, should not be prohibited. Such communications could fall under the bill's broad classification of "employer's opinions about...political matters." Consequently, AT&T opposes RHB 7326 because it could unreasonably restrict an employer's legitimate communication with its employees.

Conclusion:

AT&T Connecticut opposes RHB 7326 and respectfully requests that if the committee determines that there is a need for this legislation, the committee change the language to ensure that legitimate communication between an employer and its employees are not covered by the legislation.