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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Sharon M. Palmer
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Good afternoon Senator Gaffey, Representative Fleischman and members of the Education Committee. Thank you for providing this hearing opportunity.

Sharon Palmer
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SECRETARY-TREASURER

My name is Sharon Palmer, President of the AFT Connecticut. I am here today to speak regarding Raised Bill 5594 [*An Act Concerning A Corporate Tax Credit And An Income Tax Credit For Donations To Education Foundations*].

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Quite frankly, we are not interested in Pre K-12 public education becoming dependent on donations from private corporations or individuals. We are interested in the State fulfilling its obligation to reach its 50-50 average cost sharing goal with our towns and cities.

Having stated that, I'm sure you can surmise we are opposed to tax credits for such donations. This only reduces our tax revenues and makes it more difficult to reach beyond 38% funding of education toward 50-50 cost sharing.

PH Testimony Date: 2/29/08
Bill # RHB-5594
Speaker: SHARON M. PALMER



We also have concerns regarding the broad discretion given to the Commissioner of Revenue Services to approve or disapprove donations. Political motivations are a concern, coupled with the fact that there are no criteria in the bill.

We believe Section 1(e) is a back door to vouchers. Individuals and corporations are free to give to non-public schools for tuition assistance. However, there should not be a tax credit. Again, it reduces revenue for public purposes. We urge your rejection of this provision.

Again, thank you for providing this hearing opportunity.