

Kupiec, Jared

From: sandrar5@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2008 9:26 PM
To: Kupiec, Jared
Subject: Bill 685 For Public Comment

'(4) establish state oversight and intervention as needed and in certain instances enable a municipality to take extraordinary measures to improve its financial condition; and "

I am writing in opposition to bill 685. I am an employee of the City of Waterbury where an Oversight Board was instituted a couple years ago by disgraced ex Gov. Rowland; Waterbury is the prototype for the present bill.

This Oversight Board (OB) has done incredible damage to the livelihood and morale of the employees of Waterbury. The OB used heavy handed tactics that essentially destroyed many of the rights within the union contract, it left the union with no teeth in regards to pay increases, FMLA laws, and in general rights of women employees. We, the city employee union, are still fighting with the City of Waterbury to rescind and overturn many important areas in the union contract. Implementing the OB in Waterbury has only resulted in the loss of rights to many of it's workers, and empowered the Mayor to make decisions that are not in the best interests of city employees.

The Waterbury City employees union has spent the last two years fighting to overturn our contract; we are in continual dispute with Mayor Jarjura, while spending thousands of dollars on legal fees.

Passing this legislation would ensure that organized labor play no role in the rights of its members, while propelling the mayor and CT government as a powerful force in the lives of average citizens. Let us please remember that we are a democratic society and let us pass laws that adhere to democratic values. This law is akin to Russian President Putin consolidating power by firing all the regional governors and appointing his cronies. This bill must be stopped.

Regards
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