

Senator Prague, Representative Ryan , members of the Labor and Employee relations committee.

My name is Gail Acosta, I am a High School Guidance Counselor in New London.

I've come here today to ask for your consideration of Bill #62. This bill would amend Bill # 10-183 e to include guidance counselors.

At present this Bill allows social workers to buy back their time prior to the years of accreditation if they went on to get the masters degree in social work and continued their work in the public school system.

The amendment to this bill would allow guidance counselors who went on to become certified as guidance counselors to be able to purchase service credit time in the teacher's retirement system.

I feel the position of Social Worker and Guidance Counselor parallels each other in many of their functions. Both positions help children and families work through problems, make appropriate decisions and access resources to help them become the productive members of society.

I am very pleased to have had the opportunity to work in the public school system with Connecticut's students in grades pre-K through 12 over the past 25 years.

Thank you for your time and careful review of Senate Bill # 62.