



Testimony of Lori J. Pelletier, Secretary-Treasurer of the Connecticut AFL-CIO
Before the Public Health Committee
February 29, 2008

Senator Handley and Representative Sayers and members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Lori Pelletier and I am here on behalf of the 900 affiliated Local unions who represent 220,000 union men and women all across this great state. We appreciate the opportunity to present testimony to this committee today.

I am here to express our strong support for S.B. No. 419 (Raised) An Act Prohibiting Smoking in Regulated Areas of Casinos. This legislation will protect casino workers from workplace hazards such as second hand smoke. The AFL-CIO and its affiliates have fought for decades to protect workers health and safety and SB 419 is another example of this battle.

Just as people who worked in mines or in factories, or on farms have fought for healthier work environments so too must we continue this struggle today for these workers. When asked why he fought against the practice of spraying pesticides on the crops Cesar Chavez, said that "it was never about the grapes or the lettuce but about the people."

Today, in the year 2008 it is still about the people. These workers may be a part of the gaming industry but they shouldn't have to gamble with their own health. We urge you to pass this legislation and put an end to these unhealthy conditions.

Thank you again for holding this public hearing and I would be glad to answer any questions you may have.

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