



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

*TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
January 30, 2009*

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Secretary  
Office of Policy and Management*

Testimony Opposing

S. R. No. 9 RESOLUTION PROPOSING APPROVAL OF AN ARBITRATION AWARD BETWEEN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT AND THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES (AFSCME).

H. R. No. 9 RESOLUTION PROPOSING APPROVAL OF AN ARBITRATION AWARD BETWEEN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT AND THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES (AFSCME).

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Senator Harp, Representative Geragosian and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on an arbitration award between the State and the NP-4 bargaining unit of the American Federation of State and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

This award is concerning the state's contract with correction officers and other employees in the state's prison system. The decision gives the Corrections bargaining unit represented by Council 4 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees a 3 percent general wage increase plus annual increments and lump sum payments which will result in total increases of up to 6.5 percent in the first year. It also awards general wage increases of 2.5 percent plus step increases and lump sum payments in each of the following two years.

Because of the state budget deficits looming in the next two years we are asking the committee to reject this arbitrator's decision because it will cost the state more than \$86 million over the next three years and we simply cannot afford it.

The decision to ask you to reject the contract was a difficult one for several reasons. Correction officers have among the most difficult, dangerous and essential jobs in all of government. The Governor values their commitment to

public service and appreciates the job they do each and every day, around the clock, to keep our communities and facilities safe.

She also recognizes that the arbitrator upheld the state's position in nearly every instance. Unfortunately, the state's last best offers were put on the table in May and were based on economic data available at that time, long before the national fiscal crisis created a sea-change in the state's economic circumstances.

The state faces projected shortfalls of \$ 921.7 million in Fiscal Year 2009, \$3.007 billion in Fiscal Year 2010 (which begins July 1, 2009) and \$3.253 billion in FY2011, the raises and other costs of the arbitrated contract would total \$86.3 million over three years - money the state simply does not have at the moment.

We cannot recommend approval of this award despite our deep appreciation of the critical functions performed by the members of the Corrections bargaining unit. We wish that the state had funding available to pay for the arbitration award, but the simple reality is that we do not.