



CONNECTICUT
STATE COUNCIL

SERVICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION
CTW, CLC

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Statement by Paul Filson, Director of Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Connecticut State Council opposed to of HB 5248 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATURE'S IMPACT ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE STATE, and in support of SB 365 AN ACT CONCERNING CAPTIVE AUDIENCE MEETINGS, and in support of HB 6187 AN ACT MANDATING EMPLOYERS PROVIDE PAID SICK LEAVE TO EMPLOYEES

Good Afternoon, Co-Chairs, Senator Prague, Representative Ryan and distinguished members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to testify today. My name is Paul Filson and I am Director of SEIU's Connecticut State Council. The State Council represents over 55,000 members in Connecticut. SEIU is Connecticut's largest union. We represent health care workers, building service workers, public employees and community college professors and staff. SEIU believes that **HB 5248** is unworkable and unrealistic and whole heartedly supports putting an end to captive audience meetings in **SB 365** as well as granting paid sick days to hard working residents of Connecticut in **HB 6187**.

An Act concerning the Legislatures impact on employment in the state, as currently conceived in **HB 5248** would be ill advised. It is too broad, in that it affects all bills with fiscal notes no matter how big or how small. Each year there are well over 1000 bills with fiscal notes. The idea that there be an employment impact analysis on certain bills with a fiscal notes or certain tax expenditure bills does have some merit.

I support the idea that the General Assembly should be very mindful about its impact on jobs. Bills with fiscal notes that reach the floor of the House and Senate must almost always go through debate in the various committees of cognizance including the large Appropriations Committee. Very few Bills become law that, have not been vetted with regards to their impact on employment. Bills that might affect employment that come to mind include minimum wage laws, health insurance mandate laws and laws

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affecting the health and safety of workers. Debate about their impact on employment is omnipresent before those Bills become law.

Impact statements are much more needed when it comes to the overall budget of the State of Connecticut. There is little consideration about the affect on overall employment in the State of Connecticut from cuts in spending and from service cuts. Even worse, there is little understanding about the true affect on employment, before tax credits for corporations are enacted. While the General Assembly may understand the immediate affect of cutting 1000 workers from the public's payroll, it probably does not understand the multiplier affect such cuts have in the general communities around the state. Another Bill **HB 6546**, before the Labor Committee in a few days, will address this serious omission and is much more reasonable and workable than **HB 5248**.

SEIU has supported **SB 365** in the past. Employers should not have the right to force workers to attend meetings that have nothing to do with the performance of their jobs. Such meetings about politics or religion or labor organizing should simply be optional. **SB 365** has reasonable exemptions for certain employers. This Bill is broad and should not be preempted by Federal labor law.

SEIU has also supported requiring paid sick days for larger employers in **HB 6187**. Creating a level playing field for all employers in the state is fair and would not make any one employer uncompetitive with another. Paid sick days are humane and in the end good public policy - discouraging employee turnover, increasing productivity and ultimately helping workers cope with their health concerns in a way that does not compromise their ability to pay bills.