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Testimony in favor of SB 711

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Our state provides financial assistance to private businesses – whether through development grants, low interest loans or tax abatements – for one reason only: to improve the lives and livelihoods of Connecticut residents.

As a state, we have an interest in providing funds to businesses that will use those benefits to create decent living wage jobs with benefits and job security for Connecticut residents. Consequently, we expect that when we provide state assistance to a business, that the business will honor that goal.

In these difficult economic times, we have precious few resources to devote to financial assistance to businesses. For that reason, we must choose our public investment in private businesses very carefully; we simply don't have the money to do otherwise. We can only afford to make public investment in those businesses that will use the money to do the most, in terms of creating decent and stable jobs.

As economic security for working and middle class families in Connecticut deteriorates further, it is imperative that we reverse this pernicious trend. Cutting retirement flies in the faces of the goal of increased economic security for working families, and it is irresponsible of us to allow businesses who are cutting retirement security to have access to those funds.

It is wasteful in the short term and unsustainable in the long term to throw around public funds to businesses that are not using it in the public benefit.

Connecticut Working Families strongly urges the passage of this bill. It is an important step in the right direction toward the prudent use of our state's scarce resources in only those businesses that will best benefit the public in return for our shared resources.

# Helpful guidelines for canvassers & volunteers.

## Do

**Smile** – people are more likely to talk to you if you're having fun. And the time will pass faster if you enjoy yourself.

**Make Eye Contact** – it's the strongest tool you have to build trust

**Speak CLEARLY** – people won't stop to try to figure out what you're saying if they can't understand it the first time.

**Show your enthusiasm** – it's infectious and will make it easier for people to participate in what you are doing.

**Make sure signers are registered to vote** – a signature from a non-voter won't count.

**Ask people to print their names legibly** – again, a signature won't count if the names can't be read.

**Make sure people sign in the right place** – remember, each town needs a different page.

**Call your team leader or someone on your emergency contacts list if there's any problem** – we want this to go well for you.

**Keep your energy high until the end** – it's the only way to get to your goal number of signatures. And if you beat your goal, even better!

## Don't

**DON'T get discouraged** – not every person will sign your petition, and not everyone will be friendly. Let it roll off your back. More people are coming who will.

**DON'T try to talk to two different people at once** – you won't get the attention of either, and both will pass you by.

**DON'T try to answer a question you don't know** – if you're not sure, you can always just say, "Sorry, it's my first day."

**DON'T get into arguments** – if someone disagrees with you and wants to fight about it, don't let them waste your time.

**DON'T be afraid of being a little assertive** – you're doing a democratic service, and people should listen.

**DON'T wait until someone is two feet away from you to start talking** – they'll be past you before you can get a sentence out.

**DON'T just stand still** – walk around and approach people.

**DON'T forget to make sure people are writing clearly.**

**DON'T forget** – you're not alone and we want to help you succeed.