

03/11/2010

Testimony submitted by Dan Wasilewski, member of the MORE commission and a Representative of the Uniformed Professional Firefighters of Connecticut.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak here today. My name is Dan Wasilewski and I am here representing the UPFFA of Ct..I am also a member of the recently formed MORE commission and serve on the Collective Bargaining,Pension,and Health Care sub-committee. I am here today to provide my testimony on proposed Substitute Bill #5062.

As you all know, this committee consists of representatives from labor, management, business and of course legislators. My sub-committee was tasked to find cost savings in the three areas I had mentioned previously. The committee was only able to meet for approximately six weeks before being asked to submit their recommendations. As you could imagine with this diverse group, we could debate these issues for years. During our meeting we heard testimony from various professionals and organizations on different cost savings measures related to our topics. The committee discussed among other things the study that was commissioned by the General assembly in 2006, Titled: Binding Arbitration, Municipal and School Employees. One of the interesting things items found in this study is that only 4% of Municipal contracts and only 10% of teacher's contracts ever go to binding arbitration. This would seem to be quite a small percentage, considering the thousands of individual Collective Bargaining Agreements in the state. The typical cost of one of these arbitrations was approximately \$5 thousand dollars, with the occasional arbitration costing significantly more for both parties.

After reviewing this study, and listening to testimony given during our committee meetings, it is my organizations belief that the process of Binding Arbitration is able to resolve disputes over collective bargaining issues in a fair and timely manner and that its unbiased views offer a mutually beneficial outcome for both parties involved...

I ask this committee to OPPOSE this legislation and permit the Binding Arbitration process to continue to be fair, equitable and a cost-effective solution to disputes between labor and management.

Thank you all for allowing me this opportunity to speak here today.