



# CONNECTICUT AFL-CIO

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Testimony of Lori Pelletier, Secretary-Treasurer of the Connecticut AFL-CIO

Before the Public Health Committee

March 1, 2010

Good morning Senator Harris and Representative Ritter and the members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Lori Pelletier and I serve as Secretary-Treasurer of the Connecticut AFL-CIO, and on behalf of 900 local union affiliates representing 220,000 union men and women from every city and town in Connecticut, thank you for holding this public hearing.

I am here to testify in favor of

## **S.B. No. 270 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL POLICY ON THE PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN GIFTS FROM PHARMACEUTICAL AND MEDICAL DEVICE MANUFACTURING COMPANIES TO HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS.**

This is simply an issue of transparency, and as more and more focus is put on the cost of health care this is common sense legislation. At each and every bargaining table union members are negotiating their health care benefit packages. In recent times too many are forgoing raises or increases in their pensions just to offset medical benefit costs. Yet Big Medicine can dole out money to physicians who utilize their products without having a consumer eye on these dollar figure is just not fair. Massachusetts should be applauded for their work and we should follow suit.

It's also an issue of awareness. When workers are deluged with commercial after commercial about this pharmaceutical product and that product, they are relying on their physician to have the truth about these products that they recommend. However if the Physician is receiving gifts from one drug maker over another how does the patient know that the drug/device recommended is the best and not the favorite. The time has come for this legislation and we applaud this Committee for their proposed legislation and if you have any questions I would be glad to answer them at this time.

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