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Amendment 1 - Freedom of Religion, Press, Expression

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Re: HB-5460, An Act Concerning Captive Audience Meetings

Members of the Legislature's Labor and Public Employees Committee:

Correct me if I'm wrong, but the United States of America, of which Connecticut is one, is still governed by its Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. Am I wrong?

Can you tell me where either of those documents state that employees of a business are a "captive audience" and therefore should not be addressed by their employers on certain issues as directed by the legislature! That the legislature of the state of Connecticut is even considering a bill to prevent employers from communicating with their own employees as they see fit to preserve and promote their business boggles the mind.

I urge you to reject HB-5460. I need to be able to convene my employees whenever necessary to promote, preserve, and conduct my business. We need to be able to share ideas, we need to address issues affecting us, we need to discuss news, political or otherwise – it is none of your business. We are part of a world of small communities; our clients represent a number of small communities. Employer and employees – we care for our communities and participate in them. Of course we are going to meet and talk about what we can do and how we can do it.

The thrust behind this bill sounds achingly familiar – "Shut up and sit down".

HB – 5460 is plain bad legislation. Please reject it.

Sincerely,

Nicholas A. Fanelli, CLU, CPCU, CIC
President, Raynard & Peirce Inc.
President/Broker, The Raynard & Peirce Real Estate Co.