



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE DEBRALEE HOVEY
ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

ASSISTANT REPUBLICAN LEADER

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 4200
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1423
FAX: (860) 240-0207
DebraLee.Hovey@housegop.ct.gov

MEMBER
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
INTERNSHIP COMMITTEE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Labor and Public Employees Committee
Public Hearing Testimony
Thursday, February 10, 2011

Good Afternoon Senator Prague, Representative Zalaski, Senator Gomes, Representative Santiago, Senator Guglielmo, Representative Rigby, and members of the Labor Committee:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 23, An Act Concerning Employees Injured Between 1993 And 2006 And Social Security Offsets Under The Workers' Compensation Act, and especially thank you to Senator Prague for her collaboration on this issue.

The need for this legislation was originally brought to my attention by one of my constituents, who is currently receiving workers' compensation payments and is struggling to make ends meet. Their situation is made particularly dire because like anyone else who was injured between 1993 and 2006, payments made to my constituent are offset against monies she receives from Social Security.

I realize that our State is facing a multi-billion dollar deficit, and as such funds are very limited. I also realize that people in this category have not paid into worker comp. But, this is one investment that I feel is warranted. Eligibility for one program, should not limit money from the other. It would be my hope that there could be some sort of proactive resolution to this situation so individuals do not have to worry about their basic needs being met. Ideally, I would have hoped that any existing offset caused by Social Security eligibility could be reviewed on a case by case basis. Instead all claimants are painted with the same brush. Regardless of a person's assets, income or ability to work, their benefits are cut. Help me to right this by passing Senate Bill 23 or some sort of compromise.

I thank the Committee for raising this important bill and hope that it will get productive problem solving initiated. I have no doubt that amending the statutes will help many individuals and families already limited in their ability make ends meet—particularly given these tough economic times.