



**Testimony by Paul Lavallee, President  
AFSCME Local 2663  
Insurance and Real Estate Committees  
Re: HB 6308 and 6305  
Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> 2011**

Good afternoon. My name is Paul Lavallee. I am the President of AFSCME Local 2663. My Local is comprised of more than 2500 members employed in various state agencies whose daily mission is to provide social and human services for those residents of Connecticut who need them.

I come before you today to encourage you to support House Bill 6308, An Act Establishing the CT Healthcare Partnership. House Bill 6308 provides a benefit for both public and private employees. This Bill will allow municipalities, non-profits and small businesses to purchase affordable health care at the same rate as the state.

One of the more fundamental services provided by the State is its medical assistance program that is afforded to those Connecticut citizens who are found to be financially challenged. Good health is important to everyone. No citizen of Connecticut or this country should be denied necessary healthcare.

As a state employee, I am grateful to have an affordable healthcare program. It is regrettable that every Connecticut citizen is not as fortunate. You have the power to make healthcare affordable and accessible for more Connecticut residents.

Past administrations have been divisive in its dealings with the citizens of Connecticut. Rather than create programs and policies that serve the common good, the methodology has been to pit public and private sector employees against one another while the select few have prospered.

Connecticut is facing tough economic times. Policies must be put in place that will benefit the middle class. Our citizens need programs that are beneficial and cost effective and will help get the economy moving.

Our state government has an obligation to seek out programs that are a benefit to all of its citizens. The Connecticut Healthcare Partnership is that program. Please support it.

Our union urges your support of HB 6308 and 6305. We have come too far to turn back the hands of progress and fairness. Thank you very much.