



CONNECTICUT AFL-CIO

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Testimony of Lori Pelletier
Secretary-Treasurer
Connecticut AFL-CIO
Education Committee
Monday, March 5, 2012

Good afternoon Senator Stillman and Representative Fleishman, and members of the Education committee. My name is Lori Pelletier and I serve as the Secretary -Treasurer of the Connecticut AFL-CIO, and I am here to testify on behalf of our 900 affiliated local unions who represent over 200,000 union members from all 169 cities and towns.

I am here to testify on the following bills:

H.B. No. 5348 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL NURSES AND SCHOOL MEDICAL ADVISORS.

We support this legislation. By working with local schools we can ensure that our children have the necessary medical care while in the classroom. With today's requirements on our education professionals in the classroom it is key to make certain that our students also have the support of medical staff to utilize the education they are receiving. Medical support is important to students, teachers, and families and we appreciate the committee's interest in raising this bill.

***H.B. No. 5351 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOLS.**

In concept we support this legislation. We have advocated for decades on the worth of our technical high school system and appreciate the attention the governor and the general assembly are putting on our technical high schools is laudable. Not every student has the interest to go to college. These students can add value to our society and economy by working in trades that require hands on skills.

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Our technical high schools give students the opportunity to come out with shovel ready skills. By investing and refocusing our technical high school system we are demonstrating to these students and their families as well as the business community we are ready willing and able to provide a skilled workforce that can be family supportive and not burden the state.

We hope the committee considers adding to the technical high school board those who represent the educators and parents. By bringing those constituencies onto the board it will diversify the opinions and experiences.

***S.B. No. 304 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF LABOR HISTORY IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM.**

We strongly support this legislation. Regardless of your personal opinion about the labor movement there is no question the value it has added to workers' lives each and every day. Weekends, end of child labor and workplace safety are just a few examples of the life changing issues that without the women and men of the labor movement and their allies would never have been implemented.

Our social studies curriculum is the perfect place for this piece of history. We are so excited that the committee raised this bill and dedicated time on this agenda for input we realize this is a short session with an aggressive education agenda and again want to thank the chairs for this public hearing.