



THE GREATER HARTFORD LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO

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Written Testimony Submitted to the Labor and Public Employees Committee
Peggy Buchanan, President of the Greater Hartford Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO
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Senator Prague, Representative Zalaski and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee, the Greater Hartford Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO stands firmly in favor of two important bills: **Raised Bill 5433 Creating a Procedure for Personal Care Attendants to Collectively Bargain with the State** and **Raised Bill 352 Creating a Process for Family Child Care Providers to Collectively Bargain with the State**. The Greater Hartford Central Labor rises in support of these two groups of hard working and underpaid workers who deserve the right to a voice in the workplace and the opportunity to collectively bargain. As union members we know how important it is that we have the opportunity to collectively bargain not only for wages and benefits, but to ensure that our workplaces are safe and healthy. Because we can collectively bargain, union members are more likely to have health care, pension plans and better wages and benefits. We believe that our state should pass these two bills and create a procedure for collective bargaining that will elevate the work of day care workers and health care workers who serve the critical needs of our children and those in need of health care.

On two other bills, the Labor Council strongly opposes **Raised Bill 5401 An Act Concerning Leasebacks and the Prevailing Wage Threshold** and **Raised Bill 5311 An Act Concerning Public Works Projects that are Privately Funded**. Prevailing Wage Laws ensure that workers on public construction projects paid for with taxpayer dollars are paid a wage comparable to the local standard or "prevailing" wage. They prevent contractors from low-balling bids and undercutting community wages with cheap, unskilled labor and they make sure that work is done by trained workers. These requirements ensure high-quality construction work and help prevent cost overruns. Raising the threshold harms workers, plain and simple. And when workers don't have enough to provide for their families, our communities suffer. We strongly urge the Committee to reject these two bills.