

March 8, 2012

Testimony to the Labor and Public Employees Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly

In Support of SB 154: AN ACT CONCERNING STATE EMPLOYEES AND VIOLENCE AND ABUSIVE CONDUCT IN THE WORKPLACE

My name is John Hollis. I live at 16 Beffa Road, Stafford Springs, CT. I work as a Medical Records Specialist 1 for the State of Connecticut, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and I am a member of AFSCME Local 318. This bill is an important first step in the effort to eradicate bullying in the workplace.

As a union steward since 1999, I've seen numerous incidents where workers have felt bullied by their supervisor. Requiring the Department of Administrative Services to track the number of incidents of workplace bullying and report on that to the General Assembly will give us a better sense of the scope of the problem.

Workplace bullying is very costly to us taxpayers, some of the associated costs are as follows;

- 1.) Workplace bullying causes adverse health problems for the employee being bullied thus increasing healthcare costs.
- 2.) Decrease in worker productivity due to absenteeism as well as the inability to concentrate while at work due to being bullied.
- 3.) Increase in Workers Compensation costs from injuries on the job due to inattentiveness resulting from being bullied
- 4.) Overall costs of public safety issues arising from workplace bullying.

Whatever we can do to eradicate bullying in the workplace is a step in the right direction.

Respectfully submitted.

Thank you,

John Hollis