



State of Connecticut
HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONN. 06106

Testimony before the Labor Committee
March 13, 2012
House Bill 5403

“An Act Prohibiting Lobbying by State Employees on State Time”

Chairs Prague and Ryan, Ranking Members Rigby and Guglielmo and members of the Labor Committee, this testimony is being submitted in support of Raised Bill 5403, “An Act Prohibiting Lobbying by State Employees on State Time.”

This bill amends the "prohibited acts" statute to require union stewards to use personal, vacation or comp time to engage in any lobbying. Union stewards employed by the state should be doing their state job when not having to perform actual union steward duties. These duties do not – and should not – include lobbying but should be limited to the core function of a union steward – servicing union members, mediating grievances, etc. This bill insures that they are not engaged in activity outside the scope of their permitted steward duties while on state time.

Union stewards may spend an unlimited amount of state time serving union members and get paid their state wage to do so. While we recognize that there will likely be times when a steward has to deal with an emergency or time-sensitive situation during the work day, the steward should not be allowed to engage in activity outside the scope of his core steward duties while on state time. Raised Bill 5403 addresses that issue and I urge its support.

Thank you for your time and consideration.