

March 5, 2012

My name is David Samuels. I am the founder of the Community Party, a state racial justice group. I am also a state employee. I'm writing in support of S.B.154. Being a Black man I have endured both racism and classism as an employee of DMHAS. I have been targeted both by management and other workers. I don't stop being an activist when I go to work - I stand up to bullying attempts but the daily battle is draining. When I was involved in the effort to stop the Three Strikes law in 2008, I was warned by fellow activists that I would be targeted at work due to my public criticism of former Gov. M. Jodi Rell. Sure enough, I was targeted by management - a human resources employee informed me that my bosses were cutting corners trying to get me fired. I ended up being placed on paid administrative leave for several weeks as a result of trumped up workplace violence charges. My constant documentation of the events leading up to my suspension was the only thing that saved my job. Right now I'm having to deal with a white co-worker who clearly is getting away with her obnoxious behavior because of her race and her status as a stooge for management. I filed a workrule violation complaint against this woman in December which still has not been addressed. I recently filed a grievance against DMHAS Labor Relations for obstructing the complaint process, as management is clearly protecting this person. I have filed numerous grievances and complaints against a former supervisor and the head of my department. This is a rigged system with no accountability for supervisors, managers or "chosen" employees. I have also filed a CHRO complaint but that agency is backed up with complaints and my case has still not been heard. The study bill should be quickly passed so that the actual CT- Healthy Workplace Bill can be introduced. Workplace bullying must be addressed as it results in a loss of productivity and all kinds of health and psychological issues for the victims - many have taken their own lives. The culture of abuse in the workplace must be addressed.

David Samuels  
115 Oxford Street Apt A-1  
Hartford, CT 06105