

Written

**LABOR and PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING FEBRUARY 26, 2013**

Senator Osten, Representative Tercyak and members of the committee my name is Cameron Champlin, I represent Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local Union 777. I am here today to testify on proposed bill 5701.

We don't believe, given the present state of our economy, that reducing the benefits of an individual because he or she can't find employment is going to increase their efforts to find a job, there just are not abundant opportunities for employment. Unfortunately the state of Connecticut and the entire country have fallen on hard times. Until the economy improves there won't be new companies, or old ones, that are looking for new employees.

This is not the time to penalize anyone for failing to secure employment especially when their unemployment check may be the only means of support for them and their families. If we decrease the amount that they receive the individuals may have no choice except to apply for public assistance. We don't believe shifting the burden from unemployment to the state, city or town assistance programs is the answer.

Please vote to keep this bill from moving forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this very important issue. If any more I information is needed please contact me by email came@att.net or cell (860) 287-0020.