



HB 5713 An Act Concerning the Inclusion of Labor History In the Public School Curriculum

Testimony of Stephen McKeever

AFT Connecticut, First Vice President

Labor Committee

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Senator Osten, Representative Tercyak and members of the Labor Committee:

As a teacher and educator for 17 years I have had the opportunity to witness the advantages of preparing our students for their future in the workforce. The role that our students will play in the workforce of tomorrow is unknown; by teaching them the history of the labor movement we can empower them with the knowledge of what it takes to have a thriving middle class and safe work environments.

The role that organized labor has played in Connecticut's history has been profound. From the thread mills in Willimantic, the Waterbury Clock Company, Bridgeport Brass, to the famed garment workers of New Haven. Connecticut's notable labor history has been showcased in museums across the state and represents a great way for the students of Connecticut to have hands on experience with how the workers in this state have fought to grow the middle class.

The labor movement has championed the five day work week, safe working standards, and child labor laws. These are only basic rights that the labor movement has already fought for. Embracing the study of the labor movement and allowing it to be taught in our schools will help to give our students a deeper appreciation for the safe work environments we promote today. Through this education we can help our students lead the way to greater worker place standards and a better life for all the citizens of Connecticut.

Therefore, I urge you to support HB 5713 and the inclusion of labor history in our classrooms

Thank you.

AFT Connecticut
SECRET

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