

UNIFORMED PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT

AFFILIATED WITH INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

30 Sherman Street, West Hartford, CT 06110

Office: (860) 953-3200 Office Fax: (860) 953-3334

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

Peter S. Carozza, Jr., *President*

Louis P. DeMici, *Secretary*

Robert P. Anthony, *Treasurer*



PAUL J. RAPANAULT

DIRECTOR

Legislative/Political Affairs

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Labor and Public Employees Committee Public Hearing

Good afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Tercyak and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. My name is Paul Rapanault. I am the Director of Legislation/Political Affairs of the Uniformed Professional Fire Fighters of Connecticut. The UPFFA represents 4,000 career fire fighters, Emergency Medical Technicians and dispatchers in nearly 60 municipal and state local unions.

I am here today to speak on two bills before you.

The first is **S.B. No. 387** AN ACT INCREASING THE MINIMUM FAIR WAGE - WE **SUPPORT** THIS BILL. We believe that helping workers earn a more equitable wage can only help everyone in Connecticut.

The second is **H.B. No. 5713** AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF LABOR HISTORY IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM. WE **SUPPORT** THIS BILL. The labor movement has been driving force behind the creation of the middle class in the United States and around the world. Many of the accomplishments achieved by the labor movement are commonplace today, such as an 8-hour work day & 40-hour work week, a minimum wage, child labor laws, safer working conditions, unemployment insurance, protection against workplace discrimination, Workers' Compensation and collective bargaining to give workers a voice. These are important aspects of our society. Students deserve to know that these protections were achieved after hard fought battles over many years and with great sacrifice by the efforts of ordinary people to create the society we enjoy today.

We urge you to support these two important bills.

Thank you for your consideration.

Paul J Rapanault, Legislative/Political Affairs