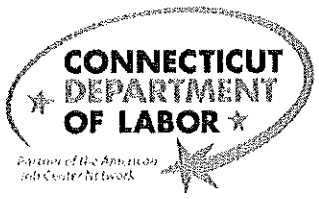

Written Public Hearing Testimony of

Sharon Palmer, Commissioner

Department of Labor

Labor and Public Employees Committee

February 27, 2014

Good Afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Tercyak, Senator Markley and Representative Smith and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with testimony regarding **Senate Bill No. 220, AAC the Inclusion of Labor History in the Public School Cirriculum**. My name is Sharon Palmer and I am the Labor Commissioner.

As the current Labor Commissioner and as the former AFT-Connecticut President, I am supportive of S.B.# 220, which will include labor history, labor law and free market capitalism in the prescribed courses of study in the public school curriculum. Unfortunately, not all of Connecticut's students know or can fully appreciate that many of the worker rights that we all benefit from today stem from the labor movement. The Family and Medical Leave Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act are just a few of the examples of the historical laws that have been enacted that would not have been possible without the labor movement. We owe it to our students to help educate them.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify here today and I am available to answer any questions.