Testimony of Lori Pelletier
Executive Secretary-Treasurer CT AFLCIO

Labor and Public Employees Committee

OFF SITE PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

Thursday, March 13, 2014

3:30 PM

BRIDGEPORT CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

45 LYON TERRACE

BRIDGEPORT, CT 06604

Senator Holder-Winfield and Representative Tercyak and members of the committee on behalf of the working men and women of this state we submit the following testimony in support of:

1. S.B. No. 371 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING RETALIATION AGAINST IMMIGRANT WORKERS. (LAB)

No worker should fear retaliation, but the fact is retaliation is quite prevalent within the world of immigrant labor. Workers' who stand up when something is unsafe, not be done appropriately or violating state law should not fear repercussion. We are willing to work with this committee on this very important legislation.

2. H.B. No. 5527 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING A DOMESTIC WORKERS BILL OF RIGHTS. (LAB)

Work location should not determine whether or not a worker has protections. As our economy evolves and some occupations fade away and others grow we need to be able to come back and review our laws to ensure workers are protected. We support each of the components listed below:

- Annual 7 paid days of rest for full-time workers after a year of employment, pro-rated for part-time workers;

- One day off per 7-day calendar week - with premium pay of one-and-a-half times the worker's regular rate of pay if she voluntarily agrees to work on this day;

- Advance notice of termination or severance pay for workers, excepting cases involving good faith allegations of abuse or neglect;

- Written notice at the time of hire of the pay rate, terms, conditions and duration of employment, job duties, deductions, and of the BOR protections;

- Increased protection from impermissible deductions for food and lodging;

- Protection for sleep time for workers required to spend the night at their employer's home, and compensation for all hours worked when sleep is interrupted;

- A right to privacy in private living spaces and in a worker's private communications; protection from seizure of a worker's documents.

- A private right of action and an administrative mechanism for enforcing the BOR provisions. Protection from retaliation for enforcing these new rights.

- Creation of a Domestic Work Taskforce to conduct outreach and education to workers and employers and to enforce new rights.

Thank you to the committee and all the work you do.

Lori Pelletier

Executive Secretary-Treasurer