

Kess, Quinn

From: Susan Meagher <meaghersi59@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2014 8:09 PM
To: LABTestimony
Subject: HB 5066

I am writing to ask for your support on proposed legislation introduced by the Labor and Public Employees Committee.

I work for the Berlin Probate Court. I started working at the court in May of 2006. I received one pay raise in 2007 and then nothing until a merit raise in 2013. That's a long time to wait for a pay raise considering the cost of living has steadily gone up. This lack of compensation was decided by our Probate Court Administrator. Probate court employees are significantly underpaid compared to state employees who work in similar jobs, such as state judicial. Although we are hired by our Judges, the PCA controls the courts and limits our ability to speak up for ourselves, and yet, probate court employees "serve at the pleasure of the judge". I fear if the current Judge is not reelected or chooses not to run I could lose my job since we lack job security because of that clause.

HB 5066 – An Act Concerning Certain Workers' Rights to Collectively Bargain would update state laws to give us the same rights as most other employees in the State. I know this legislation will not make us state employees. It will give us a voice. It will give us the right to form a union and provide job security by removing the clause "serve at the pleasure of the judge".

This is important legislation. I hope I can count on your support for this bill.

Thank you,

Susan Meagher
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