

Hue Galloway, New Britain
Legislative Program Review & Investigations Committee
March 4, 2014
Testimony in Support of:
RE-EMPLOYMENT OF OLDER WORKERS

House Bill # 5375: AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE REEMPLOYMENT OF OLDER WORKERS CONCERNING THE TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM

House Bill # 5376: AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE REEMPLOYMENT OF OLDER WORKERS AS THEY RELATE TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

House Bill # 5377: AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE REEMPLOYMENT OF OLDER WORKERS AS THEY RELATE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

House Bill # 5382: AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE STUDY ON THE REEMPLOYMENT OF OLDER WORKERS AS THEY RELATE TO JOB ADVERTISEMENTS

My name is Hue Galloway and I am a resident of New Britain. I would first like to thank the Committee for taking on the challenges faced by older job seekers in CT. The financial and emotional toll that unemployment takes on a person is incredibly difficult. While I am not an expert in legislative policy or labor laws, I do have a personal story that I wanted to share with you today.

I have worked as a Field Technician, repairing, installing and servicing Data Communications Equipment, Printers and Computers for over 35 years. I was employed with Ticketmaster for 12 years, which for 9 years I was the only Technician servicing Connecticut. My responsibilities were to maintain and repair the communications equipment in the Connecticut office and to repair and service Ticketmaster's Equipment installed at their Connecticut Venues and Outlets.

I always got a good evaluation from Ticketmaster. Therefore I am sure that my layoff was due to the economic crisis. I also know that the remedy for laying me off was having the Boston Technicians cover Northern Connecticut and the New York Technicians cover Southern Connecticut.

For 3 years I was submitting 2 to 6 resumes online per week. During the 3 years I may have gotten a dozen replies. I may have been called for 4 or 5 interviews.

I wiped out my savings and had to dip into my 401k trying to maintain my bills. I had to file Bankruptcy mid 2010, which went through early 2011. After trying to short sell my house unsuccessfully. I requested a Deed in lieu of Foreclosure November 2012. And I applied for early Social Security May of 2012.

As you can see, the financial ramifications of my layoff as an older worker were extreme and taking early Social Security will negatively impact my monthly income for the rest of my life

We are the 7th oldest state in the country, one of the most expensive states in the country to live and one of the slowest to recover from the recession. I hope my story, which I am sure is similar to that of many people in Connecticut, illustrates how important it is for the General Assembly to pass bills and work collaboratively with educators and the Department of Labor to increase opportunities for older job seekers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.