



CONNECTICUT AFL-CIO

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Testimony of the Connecticut AFL-CIO before the Labor and Public Employees Committee

February 17, 2015

Senator Winfield, Representative Tercyak and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee,

We submit this testimony on behalf of the 900 affiliated local unions who represent 200,000 working men and women from every city and town in our great state in support of:

Proposed H.B. No. 5854 AN ACT CONCERNING THANKSGIVING AND DOUBLE OVERTIME WAGES

Ideally workers should form a union and fight this type of employer abuse. However, workers today face a potential onslaught of abuse from employers when they choose to exercise their rights. So either you support workers by clearing the path towards unionization elections or you have government step in to protect families. This legislation does just that and we whole heartedly support it.

Our position since the beginning is any mandatory work assignments on holidays must be compensated at a higher rate. However, we don't believe retail workers should be mandated to work the Thanksgiving holiday because unlike healthcare, or emergency personnel Black Friday retail sales are not life or death.

We thank the committee for holding this hearing.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Pelletier

Executive Secretary Treasurer, Connecticut AFL-CIO

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