



Testimony of
Melodie Peters, President
AFT Connecticut, AFL-CIO

Labor and Public Employees Committee
February 17, 2015

HB 5863 AN ACT CONCERNING WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE

Good afternoon Senator Winfield, Representative Tercyak and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. My name is Melodie Peters and I am the President of AFT Connecticut, a diverse state federation of union of nearly 29,000 public and private sector employees including state employees, nurses, healthcare workers, teachers and other school personnel.

I am submitting testimony in support of HB 5863 An Act Concerning Workers' Compensation and Family Medical Leave.

A person who is absent from work due to a workers' compensation scenario should be treated with the dignity and respect that comes with an individual who knows their profession and does their job correctly, but through no fault of their own was injured. Insuring that an individual does not lose their job when they are qualified to do the job and have not committed any error or grievance, seems like a basic right of employment. It is fiscally responsible to hold the employment of the individual rather than to train a new employee to fill that position. HB 5863 will insure that an individual will be able to continue their employment in a profession that they enjoy, and continue accruing the unpaid time mandated to them through the family and medical leave act.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today on this very important bill. I urge you to support HB 5863.