



CONNECTICUT AFL-CIO

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

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

We are here today to testify on behalf of the 900 affiliated local unions that represent over 200,000 union members from all 169 cities and towns of Connecticut as follows:

S.B. No. 593 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING SEVERE MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL IMPAIRMENT AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE.

Though we support this legislation, we believe it falls short by not including all employees' conditions stemming from any traumatic workplace incident. PTSD is a harsh reality of our current world. We commend the committee reviewing how we protect those by virtue of showing up for work, are put in an unfortunate life changing and horrific situation. Workers who experience PTSD as a result of work are no different than workers who have torn ACL's as a result of work, except the injury is to the whole body inside and out. Workers may not be dying of black lung in the numbers they were, but events which cause PTSD are on the rise and workers should be compensated for those injuries. This bill, if passed, will provide peace of mind to the families of workers affected and although they may never be able to put that horrific day behind them, the safety net known as workers' compensation will be available to help.

We appreciate the committee holding this public hearing.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori J. Pelletier

Executive Secretary - Treasurer, CT AFL-CIO

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