
**Labor and Public Employees Committee
March 3, 2015
Senate Bill 984 – Support**

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

My name is David Glidden and I am the Executive Director of CSEA/SEIU Local 2001, a labor union representing thousands of Connecticut workers in both the public and private sector.

I come before you today to offer testimony in support of Senate Bill 984, which would provide the right to collectively bargain to certain groups of Connecticut workers that do not currently have that right.

One of those groups consists of the workers at the State Education Resource Center. SERC is a quasi-public agency funded by the Connecticut State Department of Education. SERC's employees perform a key role in providing research and best practices to educators and families across the state. Many of its employees moved to SERC from teaching and administrative posts in school districts throughout the state.

SERC employees work side by side with our members in the State P-3A bargaining unit. SERC employees and P-3A members often perform similar functions. Further, both groups are dedicated to the same mission of guiding the work of education in our state.

This legislation is needed because SERC employees fall into a grey area of labor law. They do not qualify for collective bargaining rights under the National Labor Relations Act because they are considered to be public employees, yet, because they work for a quasi-public agency, they are not considered to be state employees.

This legislation would create equity by granting SERC employees the right to organize for the purpose of collective bargaining. It does not force them to join a union, but rather, simply gives them the option to do so. This is a positive step that will lead to greater stability and democracy in their jobs.

Thank you.

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