

March 3, 2015

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TESTIMONY OF CHRISTOPHER BETHUNE IN SUPPORT OF S.B. 986: AN ACT
REQUIRING EMPLOYERS TO ENTER INTO PROPRIETARY INTEREST PROTECTION
AGREEMENTS PRIOR TO RECEIVING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE STATE.

Members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 986: An Act Requiring Employers to Enter into Proprietary Interest Protection Agreements Prior to Receiving Financial Assistance from the State.

My name is Christopher Bethune, I live in Manchester, CT.

As a taxpayer and as someone who cares about the services the state provides, I urge this legislature to do better at ensuring that the non-profit and for-profit entities that we invest in as a state are able to provide those services.

I worked for Catholic Charities providing in home services as a Mental Health Counselor and Clinician. I can tell you from experience that they have high turnover of employees. Part of that is because employees are not compensated adequately for their level of education and job requirements. Another reason for the high turnover is that there is no job security for front-line employees.

The result is that clients cannot rely on the services. They are too inconsistent.

This simply isn't right and is not worthy of the State of Connecticut's investment. Requiring "proprietary interest protection agreements" will ensure that the non-profits and the for-profits that we contract in will be there for the clients that need them.

I would be happy to take any questions.