

March 3, 2015

To: Labor and Public Employees Committee

From: Emily Demicco, Farmington CT

Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF S.B. No. 986 (RAISED) AN ACT REQUIRING EMPLOYERS TO ENTER INTO PROPRIETARY INTEREST PROTECTION AGREEMENTS PRIOR TO RECEIVING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE STATE.

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

I want to ask for your support of SB 986: An Act Requiring Employers to Enter into Proprietary Interest Protection Agreements Prior to Receiving Financial Assistance from the State.

I have worked for the State Department of Labor for over 2 years helping unemployed Connecticut residents through what is often one of the darkest periods of their lives.

I am a member of AFSCME Local 269, and am covered by the Social and Human Services (P2) Bargaining Unit contract. This allows me to better do the job that I care about. Here are just a few of the ways:

- Because of my union contract and the benefits that come with it, including the promise of a living wage, I can imagine working for the state for the long-term.
- Because of my union contract, if there is an issue at work there is a process for resolving it quickly and effectively to ensure that our services are not affected.
- Because of my union contract, I am able to advocate in favor of positive changes needed for myself and my coworkers without fear of retaliation.
- Because of my union contract, I am able to fully advocate for the population we serve without jeopardizing my position.
- Because of my union contract, I have the work-life balance that is necessary to do this work.

When the state makes a significant investment in a for-profit or non-profit entity to provide public services, we owe taxpayers the assurance that the workforce that is charged with providing those services has the freedom to do their jobs. This bill gives our state agencies the tools necessary to make sure that our partners in improving the welfare of Connecticut residents are able to focus on that mission by promoting a healthy exchange between labor and management, not labor-management conflict. We should protect our investment.