



## Testimony of the Connecticut AFL-CIO before the Public Safety and Security Committee

February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Senator Larson, Representative Dargan and members of Public Safety and Security 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. 902 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE FOR POLICE OFFICERS AND FIREFIGHTERS WITH POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

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 for reviewing how we protect those who 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 thank the committee for holding this public hearing and urge passage of this bill.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Pelletier

Executive Secretary Treasurer, Connecticut AFL-CIO

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February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Senator Larson, Representative Dargan and members of Public Safety and Security Committee,

We submit this testimony on behalf of the 900 affiliated local unions who represent 200,000 working men and women from every city and town in our great state oppose:

**S.B. No. 901 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING BOXING AND MIXED MARTIAL ARTS** - We oppose this bill as written as we are of the opinion that this is regressive and harmful to the boxer or mixed martial art competitor as workers. The following language appears to have merit until you get to the end of the sentence. The insurance appears only good for the match. provide insurance for the protection of the boxer or competitor in matches produced by such person, firm or corporation. Such insurance coverage shall provide for reimbursement to the boxer or competitor for medical, dental, surgical and hospital care for all injuries sustained by such boxer's or competitor's participation in such match

We question why the following is not included and in fact is removed - **for the duration of such injury, illness, disease or condition.**

Because the MMA promoters and owners exploit these workers by classifying them as "consultants" there is no workers compensation provided to them, however if this boxer or mixed martial art competitor is considered an employee, workers compensation insurance should apply to injuries sustained by the worker and this legislation would not be necessary. We thank the committee for holding this public hearing.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Pelletier - Executive Secretary Treasurer, Connecticut AFL-CIO

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