



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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RANKING MEMBER
EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

MEMBER
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January 29, 2015 * 12:00pm * 1B

Testimony on Proposed HB 5070 An Act Concerning Timetables For Municipal Binding Arbitration.

Dear Chairmen Holder-Winfield and Tercyak, Ranking Members Hwang and Rutigliano, and distinguished members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee:

I am writing in support of Proposed HB 5070, which seeks to amend Section 7-473c of the Connecticut General Statutes to place an up to one year deadline to complete negotiations from the date binding arbitration was imposed by the state. Making this sensible change would help all sides have a final determination to negotiate the contract.

The Teacher Negotiation Act has had strict deadlines for several years and has helped all sides work towards negotiating a contract. It has greatly assisted Boards of Education and local governments to make plans in their annual budget decisions. Under the Municipal Employee Relations Act and 7-473c negotiations could be deferred and or extended which provides increased costs for all sides as well as difficulties for local budgets to determine potential costs for employee benefits and salaries.

I would refer you to a 2005 Program Review and Investigations Committee report that provide background on binding arbitration for municipal and school employees.

I would respectfully ask you to raise this bill and welcome further discussions on this legislation. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Cecilia Buck-Taylor