



# CONNECTICUT AFL-CIO

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January 29th, 2015

Testimony of the Connecticut AFL-CIO before the Labor and Public Employees Committee

Good Afternoon Senator Winfield, Representative Tercyak, and members of the Labor and Public Employees 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:

## Proposed H.B. No. 5211 AN ACT CONCERNING UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICES AND ARBITRATION DECISION TIMELINES

We oppose this legislation as this proposed bill is similar to Proposed HB 5070. For decades municipalities have raised this as the reason for their budgets being out of balance. Anyone who is familiar with the timelines understands where the real costs are which is in outside legal fees. What should be required is city and towns chief elected officials being directly involved as chief negotiator. Let's include negotiations and arbitration in our chief elected officials and stop hiring the armies of outside high-priced law firms who financially benefit in the current system and stop this attack on workers.

We appreciate the committee holding this public hearing.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori J. Pelletier

Executive Secretary - Treasurer, CT AFL-CIO

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