

Bianca, Pam

From: Blair Bertaccini <oct191706710@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 2:21 PM
To: LABTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 5860 to support our probate court employees

TESTIMONY OF BLAIR F. BERTACCINI ON HB 5860 – AN ACT RECOGNIZING PROBATE EMPLOYEES AS STATE EMPLOYEES
As a former state employee and resident of Connecticut I wish to speak in support of this bill. When I worked for the Department of Labor I was a member of AFSCME Local 269. As such I had a voice in how in any changes in pay, pension, healthcare and working conditions at my job. I knew that I could not be arbitrarily fired, laid off or disciplined because I had a grievance procedure in which I would be afforded the opportunity to present my position. When I worked as a wage enforcement agent I frequently received calls from workers who had been fired or disciplined in some way without any way to appeal the decision. I would have to tell them that there were no laws providing for such a procedure and that only workers who were union members had a way to fight management's decisions. Connecticut's probate workers although paid by the State of Connecticut do not have the right to bargain over their working conditions, pay or benefits. They can also be arbitrarily fired by probate judges even if they have worked for many years doing an excellent job serving the public. By approving this bill you have the opportunity to give probate workers an opportunity to have a voice at work by organizing and forming a union. This will give them the dignity and respect that they deserve as public servants.

Thank you.

Blair Bertaccini
104 Fiske Street
Waterbury, CT 06710