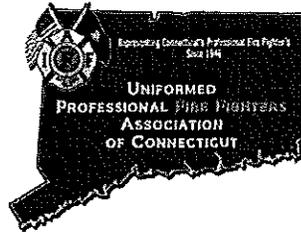


**UNIFORMED PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT**  
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Good afternoon, Honorable Chairmen Rep. Terzcyak and Sen. Winfield, members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee, my name is Richard Hart. I represent the Uniformed Professional Firefighters Association of Connecticut which represents 43 Local affiliates of the International Association of Firefighters. Membership in the UPFFA is comprised of approximately 4,000 Union firefighters in Connecticut.

I am speaking today in opposition of Proposed S.B. No. 108 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ABILITY OF ARBITRATION PANELS TO COMPROMISE WHEN RULING ON MUNICIPAL CONTRACT DISPUTES. (LAB).

Any change to the arbitration laws will detrimentally affect public employees. These laws were enacted to produce a level playing field for both Municipalities and their employees in return for no strike clauses to maintain a functioning government. By removing these safeguards and allowing for the gradual erosion of MERA rights, the shift in power returns to the Municipalities with no guarantees for employees.

Please do not move this legislation forward.

Respectfully,

Richard Hart

*Richard Hart*

DIRECTOR  
Legislative/Political Affairs