



State of Connecticut

SENATE

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Sen. Winfield, Rep. Tercyak, Sen. Hwang, Rep. Rutigliano and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee,

I'm Senator Rob Kane, and I am testifying in favor of Proposed S.B. No. 108: AN ACT CONCERNING THE ABILITY OF ARBITRATION PANELS TO COMPROMISE WHEN RULING ON MUNICIPAL CONTRACT DISPUTES.

Here in the state legislature, I believe that we craft better, more effective, common sense legislation when we listen to each other's ideas, discuss our points of view, and ultimately arrive at a compromise. I believe that process serves the taxpayers of Connecticut well. In that same spirit, this bill before you aims to promote compromise over confrontation. This bill seeks to provide arbitrators with the ability to award compromise contracts rather than forcing the arbitrator to choose one of the party's proposals. This change would bring greater flexibility to what is currently an adversarial system. Under this proposal, the arbitrator remains free to choose a party's last best offer. This bill simply grants the arbitrator discretion to choose a middle ground between the parties if he or she sees a more practical, a more reasonable alternative.

Under this proposal, the arbitrator could choose one of the proposed offers, or they may craft a reasonable, agreeable, compromise. In courtrooms across Connecticut, judges frequently encourage parties to fashion their own settlements, realizing that an agreement between the parties is often preferable to a decision forced upon them by a judge. Under this proposal, the arbitrator would be able to encourage this same behavior. To me, that's a common sense idea. Let's move away from the current adversarial system toward one of flexibility and reason.

Thank you for your consideration of S.B. No. 108.

Sincerely,

State Senator Rob Kane
32nd District