

February 10, 2016

## Appropriations Committee Public Hearing re Governor's Proposed Budget Adjustments

Senator Bye, Representative Walker and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Michael Cavadini, I am a resident of North Haven, a State Employee and a member of CSEA SEIU Local 2001. Today, I do not address you as a state employee, nor do I address you as a union chapter president, though I proudly hold the responsibilities of both these titles. Instead, I address you as what I am at my core: a Connecticut citizen with deep roots in this fine state.

My great-great-grandfather, Angelo Cavadini, came to the town of North Haven, Connecticut, in the late 1800s and worked as the town blacksmith while raising his family there. His son, Orestes, his grandson, John, and my father, Michael David, all saw it fit to raise their sons in that very town. And so, I, Michael Julian, stand before you not only as a fifth-generation citizen of North Haven but also as a graduate of Southern Connecticut State University, a chapter president of CSEA, and current employee of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. These elements of my family and I's history are of great importance to me, and now, at this moment, they serve as proof of my vested interest in Connecticut and its citizens.

With this said, please, allow me to ask of the room. How many of you used a highway on your way to work today? How many of you enjoyed clean water during your shower this morning or some fresh milk from one of our local farms? How many of you have children attending classes at a state university? How many of you grilled up some sweet corn or fished on Long Island Sound this past summer? How many of you have loved ones or know of someone with a disability, someone that fell on hard times, or someone that needed help recovering from a natural disaster? Even as a lifelong, fifth-generation resident of Connecticut, my investment is no greater than the investment we all share as its citizens, and all of these questions touch upon Connecticut's various state agencies.

Every single day, our state employees labor to build, to protect, to teach, to research, to lead, and to unify Connecticut and its citizens. When you, as legislators are working on these budgets, it may be easy to simply see dollar signs and line items spent on various departments, but you should not forget the importance of what those dollars pay for. If the budget proposed by the Governor is passed in its current form, we as citizens stand to lose a great deal more than just 2,000 state positions. We will lose the dedication and the tremendous service that is provided by the people who fill them.

Please, there are ways to balance this budget other than the elimination of these positions; new sources of revenue and reducing the state's use of expensive consultants will go a long way. I encourage you to fully explore all of these options.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

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