



CONNECTICUT AFL-CIO

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Testimony of Lori J. Pelletier, President Connecticut AFL-CIO
Before the Human Services Committee
March 8th, 2016

Senator Moore and Representative Abercrombie and members of the Human Services Committee, on behalf of the over 200,000 union members and their families in our great state we present written testimony on:

SB 391 AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOUPMENT OF STATE COSTS ATTRIBUTABLE TO LOW WAGE EMPLOYERS.

We **support** this legislation provided it will contain language exempting those employees covered by a collective bargaining agreement. We all know the strain the state budget is under. One area of stress is due in large part to the fact that employers take advantage of our state by failing to pay employees a livable wage and these workers have no choice but to turn to state services to survive.

These companies which create such enormous profits and represent so much wealth yet pay their employees so little, most times without affordable healthcare and never with retirement stability and then they rely on the rest of us to support these workers. Walmart, McDonalds, Target, are prime examples of these shameful employers. It's time we pass this legislation.

We thank the Human Services committee for holding this public hearing.

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