



CONNECTICUT AFL-CIO

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Testimony of Lori J. Pelletier, President Connecticut AFL-CIO
Before the Labor and Public Employees Committee
March 3rd, 2016

Senator Gomes and Representative Tercyak and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee, on behalf of the over 200,000 union members and their families in our great state we present written testimony on:

H.B. No. 5367 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT RATE AND AN ONLINE EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE. (LAB)

We **oppose** this proposed legislation. When an unemployed worker receives their check they immediately spend it in their community, and by suggesting a three year freeze on benefits, what you are saying is local communities and their families carry all the burden for decisions out of their control. You can't cut your way to prosperity, and if the business community was really concerned with the UI system they would ask you to propose raising the taxable wage base from where it has been since 1995.

Requiring employees to post resumes on line while simultaneously gutting the DOL department responsible for assisting unemployed workers is absurd. Privacy, security, and issues around domestic violence are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to this ridiculous idea. The State should learn from other IT mistakes before expanding requirements tied to families' finances.

As always, I thank you for holding this public hearing.

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