



**Administrative and Residual Employees Union
Local 4200, AFT CT, AFT, AFL-CIO**

805 Brook Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067
Telephone (860) 953-1316 ■ 1-800-842-4443 ■ Fax (860) 953-1377
Professionals Working So State Government Works

Testimony of
Alice Sexton, Administrative and Residual Employees Union
Before the Appropriations Committee
In Opposition to HB 5044
An Act Making Adjustments To State Expenditures For
The Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017

Senator Bye, Representative Walker and Honorable members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Ally Sexton and I am an attorney employed by the State of Connecticut at the Department of Transportation. I am a member of the Administrative and Residual Employees Union which represents 3,000 professional employees including: auditors, accountants, bank examiners, tax collectors, insurance examiners, attorneys, and inspectors, among others. I have also served as the Secretary for the A&R Union. I am testifying here today in opposition of HB 5044, an act implementing the Governor's budget recommendations to cut expenditures.

The Governor in his State of the State address spoke about reducing our State budget by shrinking our State workforce through attrition and layoffs. I would submit to you that cutting the budget by cutting the number of State employees is tantamount to diminishing and abolishing public services for the citizens of our State. Moreover, it creates harm to our shrinking working class families in Connecticut. When you lay off public employees you harm public services.

The Governor's budget proposal does not help our struggling middle class. Connecticut's richest 1% have seen their incomes increase by 35% since 2009 and pay 5.3% of their income in State and local taxes. The rest of us pay an average of 9% of

our income in State and local taxes. We do not have a revenue problem, we have a fairness problem.

We must move working families and the middle class forward. Implementing the Governor's budget not only fails to do that, but it also harms our citizens by harming their access to important and vital services.

I would ask that you reject this budget for the sake of all citizens who receive the important services that we provide as State employees.

Thank you.