

From the office of Dr. Ronald P. Laone

**Ronald P. Laone, DBA
111 Scott Road
Prospect, CT 06712
203-525-7229
RPLaone@gmail.com**



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Dear Honored Assembly,

As Connecticut once again faces financial difficulties, it is understandable that you look into various ways of trimming the budget. This should be a bipartisan issue as it pertains to us all. Reducing the number of state employees via attrition is one acceptable way to make ends meet. Might I also suggest transforming state aid welfare into a Workfare program requiring anyone receiving state aid be mandated to community service of at least 20 hours a week and random drug testing. For Human Resource purposes they can be deemed interns or apprentices. These community service workers will gain experience in a field they're interested in and qualified for, which will offset the workload as the state employee reduction via attrition takes hold. This should also help Connecticut with reducing crime and gaining a more experienced labor force that will be better prepared to step into a full time position when/if it is presented. By constructively utilizing what would be idle hands, we can minimize criminal behavior and foster a relationship between the community and the individual, which instills a sense of pride in oneself and their community. I believe we can all agree that reducing crime and creating a more experienced labor force for both private and public sectors is a great idea for Connecticut and can be done without costing the state anything.

I also suggest that the state employees who risk their safety everyday by working in a hazard duty environment be exempt from any possible discussion of contractual concessions, since the very nature of their jobs is something that most people are not aware of nor can they comprehend it. These employees keep this state safe for all Connecticut residents and shouldn't face the brunt of the fiscal mismanagement this state is witnessing. I am willing to assist with these complex issues voluntarily if needed.

Thank you,

Ron Laone, DBA