



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:

S.B. No. 39 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE MINIMUM FAIR WAGE AND EMPLOYEES WHO CUSTOMARILY AND REGULARLY RECEIVE GRATUITIES. (LAB)

We support this proposed legislation. The restaurant industry is the only industry where the consumer directly supplements wages for the business. Not only is this unfair to the consumer it is also unfair to the employee. 2/3 of tipped workers are women, 50% are over 30 years of age, and 1 in 7 tipped workers rely on food stamps.

We need to stop treating these workers as if they are second class citizens. All work is honorable so let's start paying these workers an honorable wage.

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

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