



Connecticut Department of Labor

*Scott D. Jackson, Commissioner*

**Public Hearing Testimony of  
Scott Jackson, Commissioner  
Department of Labor  
Labor and Public Employees Committee  
February 16, 2017**

Good Afternoon Senator Gomes, Senator Miner, Representative Porter, Representative Bocchino and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with written testimony regarding **House Bill No. 5591, An Act Concerning Pay Equity in the Workplace**. My name is Scott Jackson and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Labor.

As the Labor Commissioner, I am pleased to speak to this proposal because the issue of pay equity and fairness must be addressed. The findings presented by the Institute for Women's Policy Research in its recent report, *The Status of Women in Connecticut's Workforce* (November 2014), indicate that a gender wage gap in Connecticut still exists. Specifically: Women's median annual earnings in Connecticut for full-time, year-round workers (\$46,800) are considerably higher than earnings for women nationwide (\$37,000), but lower than earnings for men in Connecticut (\$60,000).

According to the report, although the gender wage gap in Connecticut has narrowed over the last several decades, women in the state who work full-time, year-round still earn considerably less than men. In 2012, women in Connecticut earned 78.0 cents on the dollar compared with their male counterparts.

Pay inequities within the same occupation add to the gender wage gap in Connecticut. Among the 19 detailed occupations that employ enough women and men to analyze the gender earnings ratio, women who work full-time, year-round earn less than their male counterparts in all but one occupation (secondary school teachers).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and I hope that the Labor and Public Employees Committee looks favorably upon this legislation