



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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DEPUTY SPEAKER

MEMBER
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FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

February 16, 2017

Testimony of Representative Russell Morin
In Support of

**House Bill 5590 An Act Creating A Task Force To Improve The Workforce
Development System In The State Of Connecticut**

House Bill 5591 An Act Concerning Pay Equity in the Workforce

**House Bill 6215 An Act Requiring Employers To Provide Paid Sick Leave To
School Tutors**

Chairman Gomes, Chairwoman Porter, Chairman Miner, Vice Chairs, Ranking Member
and Distinguished Members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify on several pieces of legislation
today.

I support **House Bill 5590, An Act Creating A Task Force To Improve The
Workforce Development System In The State Of Connecticut**. The task force
created in this legislation will study the effectiveness of workforce development
programs and their initiative in Connecticut. It will provide the Legislature with
important information about the workforce development system. More specifically, it
will allow the Legislature to see the successes and shortcomings of the workforce
development programs. With this information, the Legislature can work to provide the
necessary services needed to make Connecticut's workforce competitive, capable, and
prosperous.

I also would like to express my support for **House Bill 5991, An Act Concerning Pay Equity in the Workforce**. The gender wage gap is something that is prominent across the United States. In Connecticut, women are paid about 83 cents for every dollar their male counterpart earns. When you look at that number annually, women generally earn about \$10,679 dollars less than men. This loss of money means that families have less money to spend on goods and services, which negatively effects our economy. Women, on average, lose a combined total of 5.5 billion dollars in Connecticut. This bill will allow for women and men to become equals in the work force and the financial economy.

Lastly, **House Bill 6215, An Act Requiring Employers To Provide Paid Sick Leave To School Tutors**. This legislation would add school tutors to the list of workers who qualify for paid sick leave under Connecticut law. Tutors in school systems across the State do critical work with our students. It is imperative that when they fall ill, they are given the proper time to recover without having to worry about their wages.

I appreciate your consideration of these bills and I urge your support.