



Testimony of
Lori J. Pelletier, President
Connecticut AFL-CIO
Labor and Public Employees Committee
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HB 6209 An Act Concerning Union Stewards and Compensation from the State

Good afternoon Representative Porter, Senator Gomes, Senator Miner and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. I am Lori Pelletier and I am proud to serve as President of the Connecticut AFL-CIO on behalf over 900 affiliated local unions who represent more than 220,000 working men and women in every city and town of our great state. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on HB 6209 An Act Concerning Union Stewards and Compensation from the State.

The Connecticut AFL-CIO opposes this piece of legislation. The negotiated contractual benefit of union stewards being compensated while performing duties is actually a cost benefit to the state. If enacted this legislation would force all union / management meetings to be held after work hours thus causing an added expense to the process and delay the handling of issues that might have arisen possibly causing discord in the workplace because of these delays. When Union stewards are on "union leave" they are working on issues that also involve management. Inserting legislation into collective bargaining is wrong and does nothing to improve the process. We urge the committee to reject this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.