

Subject: Reject House Bill 5552. Safeguard Collective Bargaining Rights

Tuesday, February 21, 2017
7:53 PM

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From	<u>Orwicz, Michael</u>
To	LABTestimony
Sent	Tuesday, February 21, 2017 9:50 AM

To the Labor & Public Employees Committee,

I strongly urge you to reject House Bill 5552. This Bill will exclude retirement benefits from collective bargaining by State & Municipal employees.

This legislation attacks the collective bargaining rights of a wide swath of public employees. Among them are those of us who teach and work at public higher education institutions. We faculty and academic employees play a crucial and beneficial role in higher education. We have dedicated our lives to the betterment of Connecticut's citizenry, and to the growth of our State's economy.

This bill would threaten to throw us back to the 1950s, when public workers were treated as second-class citizens. Connecticut educators deserve better: we are the backbone of Connecticut's growth potential and vibrancy.

Respectfully,
Dr. Michael Orwicz
Associate Professor
University of Connecticut