

# comments regarding SB 5552 and SB 596

Monday, February 20, 2017  
10:22 PM

|         |                                       |
|---------|---------------------------------------|
| Subject | comments regarding SB 5552 and SB 596 |
| From    | Evan Ward                             |
| To      | LABTestimony                          |
| Sent    | Monday, February 20, 2017 9:58 PM     |

Dear Senate Committee Members,

I am a member of the faculty of the University of Connecticut with 20 years of service and would like to express my strong opposition to SB 5552 and SB 596.

Both bills convey an attempt to undermine labor relations between hard-working, dedicated State employees and the General Assembly. The tenor of the bills is punitive in nature, and therefore extremely discouraging for faculty and staff who have spent so much time and effort building the reputation that UConn has amassed over the past two decades.

Specifically with regards to faculty within the State higher educational system, these bills will serve to undermine the *esprit de corps* of the men and woman who devote their career and life to education and research, and who volunteer countless hours to State and regional activities which improve and expand the education of all citizens of Connecticut. Voluntary services such as judging national science bowls, speaking for non-profit and civic groups, presenting demonstrations at local schools, and providing technical expertise for all those in Connecticut are only a few of the unseen and often under-appreciated efforts of faculty members. These bills will diminish the willingness of faculty to engage in such activities and erode the intellectual benefits to the people of the State; benefits that go hand-in-hand with a fully engaged faculty.

The passing of these bills will not only erodes labor relations, but will also diminish the ability of UConn and Connecticut State Universities to recruit the most talented faculty to teach the next generation of citizens. Additionally, these bills would send a message through the State college and university system that could jeopardize retention of high quality faculty who will look to leave Connecticut for more labor-friendly States.

For continued success of Connecticut's collegiate endeavors, I urge members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee not to vote these bills out of committee.

Respectfully,  
J. Evan Ward  
Quaker Hill, CT