

**Joint Committee on Planning and Development**

**March 16, 2018**

**Senate Bill 421 – Oppose**

**Senate Bill 450 – Oppose**

Good morning Representative Lemar, Senator Cassano, Senator Logan, and members of the Planning and Development Committee:

My name is Stephen Anderson, and I am the President of CSEA SEIU Local 2001, a labor union which represents thousands of workers employed in the private and public sectors. I submit this testimony today on behalf of the 25,000 members of CSEA SEIU Local 2001.

CSEA vehemently opposes Senate Bill 421 - AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL BUDGET RESERVES FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2019. Far from this legislation's statement of purpose, this is not a simple revision to the language that was passed last year. Last year's legislation created a new rule that an arbitrator cannot consider a portion of a municipality's funds when assessing their ability to pay when making a decision on an economic impasse between a municipality and a union. Arbitrators are well trained and fully capable of determining whether a party has the ability to pay or not, but municipal employers pushed this legislation to hide behind their own failed management practices and scapegoat workers for their lack of budget reserves. Senate Bill 421 is a new and entirely unnecessary expansion of this bad concept that now includes negotiations. In practice, it is unclear what this expansion will accomplish and that should give all legislators pause. Collective bargaining negotiations should be between two parties and the state should leave it to municipal leaders to decide what proposals they wish to make and what they will accept, without the artificial limitations this bill would impose. Placing a portion of municipal budgets outside of collective bargaining marks a further slide down the slippery slope that seeks to strip away the rights of workers to negotiate with their employers over better wages and benefits. Please reject Senate Bill No. 421.

CSEA opposes Senate Bill 450 - AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL VOLUNTEER SERVICES. This bill is yet another unneeded limitation placed upon collective bargaining. SB 450 would prohibit municipalities from entering into collective bargaining agreements that limit the ability of municipalities to permit volunteer services. Again, the state should leave municipalities to decide what they will negotiate and what they won't agree to. While volunteer service is admirable, an additional concern with this legislation are the instances in which volunteers are used as a tool to undermine the wages and benefits of municipal employees. The types of agreements that would prevent this exploitation would be banned by S.B. 450 and we should be wary of creating situations in which volunteerism is abused in order to harm municipal employees.

Stephen Anderson,  
President, CSEA SEIU Local 2001