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**Testimony of Juan Hernandez, District Director, 32BJ SEIU**  
**Senate Bill No. 445**  
**March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018**

Thank you to the Joint Committee on Commerce for holding today's hearing. My name is Juan Hernandez and I am the Connecticut State Director of SEIU 32BJ. 32BJ represents over 4,500 men and women in the state of Connecticut and 163,000 members up and down the East Coast. Our members form the backbone of the property industry – building workers, security officers; and office, school, theatre, stadium and window cleaners.

I'm here today to ask you to stand with our members and all of Connecticut's working families by voting in support of Senate Bill No. 445, An Act Concerning an Analysis on the Recommendations of the Commission on Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth. If passed, this bill will require the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to conduct an analysis of the recommendations made by the Commission on Stability and Economic Growth.

In setting out to produce their analysis, the unelected Commission was tasked with the great responsibility of recommending worker and business-friendly solutions to Connecticut's economic stagnation, yet failed to live up to their mission. Although the report made some recommendations that would improve the lives of some Connecticut working families, such as raising the minimum wage, the Commission also made recommendations that would be incredibly harmful to other working families, such as cutting pensions for teachers and other public sector workers. The Commission's report, makes other recommendations that would hurt families and deepen inequality in our state, such as cutting taxes for the wealthy and raising taxes on the working a middle classes through regressive sales taxes. Moreover, this report, which was hastily produced in just 76 days, makes little effort to address some of our state's biggest obstacles to equity, racial and class disparities.

In order for our State's economy to be stable, healthy, and to work for all people, we need to ensure that Connecticut's backbone—it's working families—can thrive. It will take hard work and collaboration, but our state and its resident's deserve a set of recommendations

that will solve our problems, not exacerbate them further. Please support Senate Bill No. 445 today. Thank you for your time.

