

Testimony of Paula Wilmot

1265 Route 198

Woodstock, CT

Appropriations Committee

Commerce Committee

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

Planning & Development Committee

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Report on Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth

Good afternoon, my name is Paula Wilmot, a union member of the University Professional Employees Association and a 43-year-old mother of two. I am also an assistant dean of Students at UConn where I care for students who are in crisis and/or who are struggling academically or emotionally.

It is very important that in Connecticut we have positions that allow for job security, middle class wages, health care benefits and pensions. Why? Is it only to be selfish? No, it is to preserve the middle class. A middle-class lifestyle is one of the things that makes life in the United States attractive to people and one of the things that makes our society great.

I think we can think of societies that can be noted by having very rich citizens and very poor citizens. These are not societies that provide opportunities for the vast majority of their citizens to reach their potential.

Imagine with me if you will, the ability to have jobs that allow people to purchase a house and to pay off a mortgage in fewer than 30 years. Imagine with me, jobs that allow the opportunity to care for sick family members with quality insurance. That when a family member suddenly has a temperature of 103 degrees, that they can see a doctor and have follow up care (such as x-rays) without having to choose between that and food or other necessities. Imagine jobs that allow for pensions, such that people receiving them have more opportunity to help their children save for college and to help them avoid starting life with mortgage size student loan debt.