

February 27, 2019

**Government Administration and Elections Committee**

**Senate Bill No. 917 – Support | House Bill No. 7087 – Support | House Bill No. 5500 – Oppose**

Good afternoon Senator Haskell, Representative Winkler, and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. My name is Stephen Anderson and I am the President of CSEA SEIU Local 2001, a labor union which represents some 25,000 public sector workers and retirees – this includes about 10,000 workers employed in state and municipal government, several thousand who are employed as bus drivers and as childcare providers, as well as 11,000 retired public sector workers.

**CSEA supports Senate Bill No. 917, An Act Concerning The State Contracting Standards Board (SCSB) And Requirements For Privatization Contracts.** We often hear that state government should be run like a business, but what business would enter into a contract without first doing some due diligence? The SCSB is our state's due diligence, but we are not using it as effectively as we could be. In fact, a recent report by the SCSB showed that in 2017, 68% of state agency contracts for Personal Services Agreements received waivers from competitive bidding. The Board's report shows potential for annual savings of up to \$264 million if Connecticut had competitively bid contracts.

**Senate Bill No. 917 improves the work and effectiveness of the SCSB in several ways.**

- It expands the Board's oversight to cover contracts that have subsequent annual costs of over \$50,000. An example of this would be a contract for proprietary software which often requires expensive licensing agreements that must be paid even after the initial costs of purchasing the software;
- It adds quasi-public agencies to the definition of "state contracting agency", this is meant to capture agencies which, despite the number of contracts they may have, slip through the cracks when it comes to oversight by the board;
- The bill addresses an ongoing issue of unfilled board seats which can make a quorum difficult to reach. This is addressed by modifying the quorum requirement so that a majority of appointed board members constitutes a quorum;
- The bill also strengthens various provisions requiring cost benefit and cost effectiveness evaluations, those pertaining to formal reviews by the Attorney General's office and for posting of certain information to the SCSB contracting portal.

**CSEA Supports House Bill No. 7087, An Act Concerning The Reporting Of The Triennial Audit Of State Contracting Agencies By The State Contracting Standards Board** I also ask you to support House Bill No. 7087. This legislation will help ensure that the important work performed by the SCSB is seen by the relevant legislative committees.

**CSEA opposes House Bill No. 5500, An Act Concerning Policies To Limit State Fleet Vehicle Use.** This bill would change the law to prohibit bargaining over Department of Administrative Services rules and policies concerning the use of the state vehicle fleet by our members.

Stephen Anderson,  
President, CSEA SEIU Local 2001