

February 14, 2019

Senate Bill No. 1 – Support
House Bill No. 5003 – Support
Senate Bill No. 765 – Support

Good morning Senator Kushner, Representative Porter, and members of the Labor and Public Employees 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 sector, as well as state and municipal government throughout Connecticut. I am testifying today on behalf of CSEA in support of Senate Bill 1, House Bill 5003, and Senate Bill 765.

The United States stands alone among industrialized countries in failing to guarantee workers paid family leave. When a loved one has a health crisis, or when a new child is born or adopted, far too many American workers are forced to take unpaid leave or exit the workforce altogether. Low-income workers and their families are especially vulnerable as they often lack the financial resources necessary to take advantage of unpaid time off. CSEA supports Senate Bill No. 1 and House Bill 5003, and efforts that increase paid leave and cover more workers for longer periods of time so that employees can both attend to their own health needs and care for loved ones.

CSEA supports Senate Bill 765, An Act Ensuring Fair And Equal Pay For Equal Work. Equal pay for equal work is about basic fairness in the workplace. Regrettably, women have historically been paid less than their male counterparts doing the same work and it is long past time that this situation is addressed. CSEA SEIU Local 2001 supports this legislation's goal, to ensure all employees receive fair and equal pay for equal work.

Stephen Anderson
President, CSEA SEIU Local 2001