



Labor and Public Employees Committee Public Hearing Testimony - February 14, 2019

SB 765 – An Act Ensuring Fair and Equal Pay for Equal Work

SB 1 – An Act Concerning Paid Family and Medical Leave

HB 5003 – An Act Implementing a Paid Family Medical Leave Program

Good afternoon Co-Chairs Porter and Kushner, Ranking members, and Members of the Labor Committee. My name is Zak Leavy and I serve as a Legislative and Political Advocate for Council 4 AFSCME, a union representing over 30,000 hard-working employees across Connecticut.

We strongly support **SB 765, *An Act Ensuring Fair and Equal Pay for Equal Work***, and urge the committee to advance this important legislation. At a time when our federal government is working to rapidly increase income inequality across all people, it is more important than ever that we address and fix the gender wage gap. In Connecticut, the average female worker earns around 83 cents to every dollar a male worker in our state earns. This problem is increased even further when we disaggregate the data and look at the wage gap between men and women of color. Through this legislation we will increase the spending power for hundreds of thousands of workers as well as fixing a moral failing in our state and society.

We urge the committee to support **SB 765** so we can finally fix an issue that's been plaguing our state for too long.

We also urge the committee to support **SB 1** and **HB 5003** which develop a paid family medical leave program. Paid family medical leave is a necessary policy for working families in our state. We are losing the race to keep families in our state to surrounding states which have adopted paid family medical leave programs. This legislation would allow for workers to take the necessary time to care for a loved one without suffering an economic hardship. We urge the committee to support **SB 1** and **HB 5003**.