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February 12, 2019

## Statement of the Connecticut Food Association – Labor and Public Employees Committee

Wayne Pesce, President, Connecticut Food Association

### In opposition of S.B. 01 & H.B. 5002: AN ACT CONCERNING PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE

The Connecticut Food Association (CFA) proudly advocates in the service of the food retail industry. Its mission is to promote the growth of Connecticut's grocery community through economic development, nutrition & wellness, environmental stewardship, and community service. CFA membership covers the spectrum of diverse venues where food is sold, including single-owner grocery stores, regional supermarket chains, food distributors, food manufacturers, and specialty food purveyors.

On behalf of Connecticut's grocery community, I urge you to oppose S.B. 01 & H.B. 5003: To implement a system of paid family and medical leave in the state. Our reasons for opposition to these bills are that:

- Connecticut's proposal is grossly inflated compared to neighboring states'. Massachusetts allows eligible participants 40% on medical reimbursement vs. 100% in this bill and only includes organizations with more than 25 employees vs. only five in this bill's current framework.
- All CFA Member Companies already offer a host of disability benefit options for employees; this legislation impacts the flexibility of these current benefits.
- This mandate has extremely high expenditures for business. Projections by Office of Fiscal Analysis projects cost of \$18.6mm annually to manage.
- This new law will necessitate the hiring of potentially hundreds of new state employees to administer the program. Has a projection of \$13.6mm in startup costs.

Improving Connecticut's comprehensive business climate to be more cost-effective and simple is our ultimate goal. CFA's members are committed to economic development, growth opportunities for our associates, and being responsible business enterprises in the state. We support our state's long-term economic goals and are committed to doing our part to make Connecticut a better place to work, live, and raise our families.



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