

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Tuesday, February 9

HB 6378: AN ACT CODIFYING PREVAILING WAGE CONTRACT RATES - Support

HB 6381: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE REGARDING THE STATE

WORKFORCE AND RETIRING EMPLOYEES – Support

HB 6382: AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PROBATE COURT SYSTEM – Support

HB 6383: AN ACT CONCERNING CALL CENTERS AND NOTICE OF CLOSURES –

Support

Senate Kushner, Representative Porter, Senator Sampson, Representative Arora, 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 over 11,000 workers employed in the public and private sector, as well as over 11,500 public sector retiree members. I submit this testimony on behalf of our members.

HB 6378: AN ACT CODIFYING PREVAILING WAGE CONTRACT RATES – Support.

Connecticut's prevailing wage law is an important protection that benefits workers and enhances our state's economy. HB 6378 will protect our state's construction workers from any attempts to artificially drive down wages and ensure that the construction industry remains a crucial part of our state's economic landscape.

HB 6381: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE REGARDING THE STATE WORKFORCE AND RETIRING EMPLOYEES – Support.

CSEA and the other rank-and-file unionized members in the state workforce have been raising the issue of the challenges presented by coming state employee retirements in 2022. However, this is an issue that extends to the workers in the managerial and exempt employee class, as well. The task force that would be formed as a result of HB 6381 would help prepare state workers, state agencies, policy makers, and residents for these retirements while providing useful recommendations for recruitment into state service.

HB 6382: AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PROBATE COURT SYSTEM – Support.

It is remarkable that there are workers in Connecticut who do not have the right to form a union and exercise their collective bargaining rights. Unfortunately, that is the case for the people who work in Connecticut's probate courts. This bill simply gives probate court workers the right to form a union, if they so choose. Denying working people their fundamental rights is shameful and, as a state, we should take a needed step forward and give collective bargaining rights to these workers.

HB 6383: AN ACT CONCERNING CALL CENTERS AND NOTICE OF CLOSURES –

Support. Out of solidarity with our brothers and sisters in CWA, CSEA supports this bill requiring companies that operate call centers to give their workers 100 days' notice if they intend to move the call center. This is a matter of stability and fairness for workers. It should not be too much to expect companies to notify their workers when they intend to move locations.

I thank you for hearing my testimony. I urge the members of the committee to support House Bills 6378, 6381, 6382, and 6383.

Stephen Anderson
President, CSEA SEIU Local 2001