



March 8, 2022

PRO

1. S.B. No. 321 (RAISED) AN ACT EXPANDING WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE FOR POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURIES FOR ALL EMPLOYEES.
2. H.B. No. 5357 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING MANDATORY OVERTIME FOR NURSES IN HOSPITALS.
3. S.B. No. 320 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING RAISING THE THRESHOLD FOR UNEMPLOYMENT OVERPAYMENTS.
4. H.B. No. 5356 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING PANDEMIC PAY FOR ESSENTIAL WORKERS.
5. H.B. No. 5355 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING SEXUAL VIOLENCE POSTING IN THE WORKPLACE.
6. S.B. No. 318 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING CAPTIVE AUDIENCE MEETINGS.
7. H.B. No. 5354 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING UNDUE DELAYS IN WORKERS' COMPENSATION.
8. S.B. No. 317 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING UNEMPLOYMENT FOR STRIKING EMPLOYEES.
9. H.B. No. 5353 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING A FAIR WORK WEEK SCHEDULE.
10. S.B. No. 316 (RAISED) AN ACT PROTECTING CONNECTICUT WORKERS.
11. S.B. No. 315 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR ADJUNCT HIGHER EDUCATION FACULTY.
12. S.B. No. 314 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING PROTECTION OF WAREHOUSE WORKERS.
13. S.B. No. 313 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING ADOPTION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE TO STUDY CANCER RELIEF BENEFITS FOR FIREFIGHTERS.
14. S.B. No. 312 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF CONNECTICUT PAID SICK DAYS.

Chairs, Representative Porter, Senator Kushner and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Stacey Zimmerman, I am here today representing the Service Employees International Union Connecticut State Council. SEIU represents 65,000 members across the state in both the public and private sectors.

SEIU strongly supports all this agenda except for S.B. 319. This testimony will focus on H.B. No. 5356 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING PANDEMIC PAY FOR ESSENTIAL WORKERS.

The past two years have shown us as a society some glaring truths that we as a culture have papered over for far too long. The pandemic while traumatic and disconcerting for everyone was felt at a much more personal level by those that provide essential services. Many of these heroes are low wage earners or come from communities who have historically discriminated against in our economy. We can help address some of this by rewarding and recognizing their heroic actions.

Today you will hear or have heard heart wrenching stories from our members and other essential workers. Workers hit by illness at the job, the loss of coworkers, being the one introducing the virus into your household because you had to go to work.

Essential wasn't a choice it was a mandate for the good of the state, nation and world. These people kept us safe and fed, cared for our infected neighbors, and kept things as normal as possible. When life was and, in many ways, still is, nothing close to normal.

A Recovery for All begins by recognizing those who got us to this point. Connecticut's wealthy have made more than ever, state coffers are overflowing we can do this. The modest award in this bill makes a major statement, that we thank you, we appreciate you and we recognize the hardship this has caused to you.

Looking forward is exciting, the future beckons us to break out of this crisis but we cannot forget to build an equitable rewarding society that recognizes the sacrifices that brought us to this place in time. Other states lead by both Democrats and Republicans have out paced us on this but we can and must catch up. Move H.B. No. 5356 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING PANDEMIC PAY FOR ESSENTIAL WORKERS forward move us all forward.