

# The Worker Bee



## The Connecticut AFL-CIO Legislative Update

### “Right to Work” Hearing Dodged

Members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee, in an effort to establish collegial, bipartisan working relationships, considered holding public hearings on a number of controversial bills and subject matters. The willingness to hold public hearings was not intended to be an indication of support for any of those issues, but rather was to allow for respectful dialogue. One issue potentially designated for such a hearing was “Right to Work” legislation submitted by House Republican legislators.

**“RIGHT TO WORK” IS WRONG**

The Connecticut AFL-CIO, our affiliates and our allies responded to the potential of a public hearing on so-called “Right to Work” legislation by contacting legislative chamber leaders on

both sides of the aisle and all the leaders of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. Together, we worked successfully Thursday to prevent a public hearing on this anti-worker, anti-family legislation that enriches corporate special interests at the expense of workers’ losing their voices on the job.

Though we were able to stop this initial threat, union members should not be complacent or rest easy. Hundreds of bills have been introduced to attack working men and women since the legislative session convened. We must all be vigilant and committed to defeating these and similar measures by educating our colleagues, speaking out and keeping in close touch our elected legislators until the session adjourns at midnight on June 7th.

### Good Bills Do Exist

In addition to the hundreds of bills filed to date that attack workers in one way or another (undermining pensions, slashing prevailing wage, gutting unions, curtailing collective bargaining, expanding corporate tax breaks, etc.) numerous bills have also been introduced to provide worker protections and force corporations to be responsible citizens, employers and taxpayers. Among them are:

- **SB 1 and HB 6212** by more than 30 legislators would create paid family and medical leave.
- **SB 13** by Sen. Looney would phase-in a minimum wage increase to \$15/hour.
- **HB 5585** by Rep. Aresimowicz and 45 Representatives would remove the Connecticut Technical High School System from the Department of Education and make it an independent agency.
- **HB 5911** by Rep. James Albis would establish a legislative tax expenditure subcommittee to review and analyze the effectiveness of business tax expenditures and tax credits.
- **HB 6101** by Rep. Josh Elliott would deny economic assistance and tax expenditures to any corporation whose CEO earns more than 100 times the average Connecticut worker.
- **HB 6162** by Rep. Matt Lesser would create debt-free higher education for in-state students at public colleges and universities.

*“The labor movement is organized upon a principle that the strong shall help the weak.” — John Lewis*



Connecticut AFL-CIO  
56 Town Line Road  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067  
860-571-6191

[www.ctaflcio.org](http://www.ctaflcio.org)  
[www.facebook.com/ctaflcio](https://www.facebook.com/ctaflcio)  
[@ConnAFLCIO](https://twitter.com/ConnAFLCIO)

Lori Pelletier  
President  
[lpelletier@ctaflcio.org](mailto:lpelletier@ctaflcio.org)

Jennifer Berigan  
Legislative Director  
[jberigan@ctaflcio.org](mailto:jberigan@ctaflcio.org)

Rich Benham  
Mobilization Coordinator  
[rbenham@ctaflcio.org](mailto:rbenham@ctaflcio.org)