

## 2019 AFTCT Legislative Agenda

AFT Connecticut is a diverse state federation of more than 90 local unions representing over 30,000 active public and private sector workers. Our members include teachers, paraprofessionals, school nurses and other school personnel, state employees, higher education faculty and staff, hospital nurses, technicians and service and maintenance workers. AFT Connecticut members are in their jobs for the long term.

We are, therefore, concerned with the long-term well-being of our state and towns. While there are many issues of great importance to AFT Connecticut members, we have chosen the following issues below as a blue-print for advocating for legislation and a state budget that protects and improves the rights, safety, and quality of life for all its members

### **Labor Issues**

- \$15 Minimum Wage increase
- Paid Family Medical Leave
- Captive Audience
- Support contracts for Assistant Attorney General Award and Accretion of members into JPE and A&R
- Janus Legislation
  - Legislation to create opportunities for the union to meet with people coming into the unit –or with all unit members
  - Union getting timely information about people coming into the unit
  - Legislation that states that public employers shall not encourage workers to drop the union
- Eliminating barriers for managers to be union members
- Support legislation that would allow for guaranteed voluntary recognition via card check by employer
- Stopping efforts to weaken binding arbitration for state employees, teachers and municipal employees.
- Automatic voter registration when you turn 18 - an opt-out not an opt-in
- Exempt from mandatory overtime certain hospital workers like respiratory therapist and technicians.
- Support legislation that would reverse the case law on the Pepperidge Farm Case on workers compensation

### **Budget and Taxes**

- Working for a budget that includes adequate funding for state services, PK-16 education, state funded pensions, and acute care hospital funding.
- Monitor and support legislation to ensure adequate pension funding and address the unfunded liability for the Teachers Retirement System, State Employees, and CT Municipal Retirees System
- Increase revenue by collecting delinquent taxes. Provide the resources required (such as hiring DRS staff) to enable the work to be done to pursue said taxes.

## **Healthcare Issues**

- Provide funding for hearing aids for retirees' health insurance
- Improve retiree healthcare benefits for teachers and healthcare workers.
- Support funding of the teacher's retiree health insurance for the state.

## **Privatization Issues**

- Fighting efforts to privatize state or municipal services, including public education.
- Oppose any recommendations for a public private partnership of UCONN Health Center
- Contracting Standards Board

## **Workplace Safety and Staffing**

- Support legislation around patient staffing in hospitals
- Monitor and implement classroom safety legislation committee
- Support for Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care & Social Service Workers at the state level

## **Education Issues**

- Increase the power of the Para Advisory Committee
- Support legislations to give paraeducators a living wage in CT
- Legislation to support more voices in the classroom and upward mobility issues of PSRPs
- Sliding scale for testing placement for special education students (MA law)
- Implement accountability and transparency measures for charter schools.
- Support legislation around expediting DCF cases in schools
- Moratorium on charter schools
- Recruitment & Retention of Educators of Color
  - ❖ Recruitment
    - Para-teacher pipeline
    - Minority teacher DSAP
    - My classroom my colleague
    - Tuition Incentive
  - ❖ Retention
    - Hiring techniques
    - Support in schools
    - Unconscious bias
    - Seniority – years in service