



2020 Legislative Issues 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

- Captive Audience
- Ensuring the Rights of Public Employees to join or support a union (Post - Janus legislation)
- Study bill on 2022 silver tsunami, inversion/compression succession planning for state managers
- Stopping efforts to weaken binding arbitration for state employees, teachers and municipal employees.

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.
- Teachers Retirement System – COLA adjustment to reflect new rate of return
- Changing education funding stream (lock box)
- ECS money to go directly to Board of Education
- Magnet school funding issues
- Review and study of PILOT program/non-profit statutes

Healthcare Issues

- Improve retiree healthcare benefits for teachers and healthcare workers.
- Support funding of the teacher's retiree health insurance for the state.
- Add licensure for administering oxygen to patients for sleep technicians.

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
- Protection of workers around data privacy rights

Workplace Safety and Staffing

- Support legislation around patient staffing in hospitals
- Advocate for legislation that protects students, teachers, para educators and other school related personnel from physical harm in the classroom.
- Support for Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care & Social Service Workers at the state level
- Advocate for legislation around indoor air quality issues in schools
- DCF – notify districts and teachers with-in 48 hours if the case was unsubstantiated and will not be investigated

Education Issues

- Oppose “Student First” – consolidation of the 12 independently accredited community colleges
- Support for funding for debt free college
- Professional Development Opportunities for Paraprofessionals
- Living Wage for Paraprofessionals
- Add School Counselors and school social workers to the 6th year accelerated program in special education
- Implement accountability and transparency measures for charter schools.
- Recruitment & Retention of Educators of Color
- Monitor the following task forces:
 - EdTPA
 - Child Play
 - School Climate
- Funding of a pilot program for a CTEC Apprenticeship Program – recruitment and retention of educators of color in the CTEC system