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**Contact:**

Matt O'Connor,  
860/221-5696  
[moconnor@aftct.org](mailto:moconnor@aftct.org)

**Comments on State GOP's "Shameful and Hypocritical" Public School Political Rally**

*Jan Hochadel, president of AFT Connecticut, made the following remarks regarding the Connecticut Republican Party's announced rally for political candidates tomorrow at Pomperaug Regional High School in Southbury:*

"For the state G.O.P. to hold a political event in a public school is both shameful and hypocritical. Their gubernatorial nominee's scheme to slash \$11 billion from the state budget threatens devastating cuts to local and regional districts across Connecticut.

"Our students — as well as their teachers and school support personnel — will pay the price for those cuts. The consequences could be dramatically increased class sizes, thousands of layoffs and the loss of vital education services and supports.

"For a political party to hold a rally in a regional school whose communities will suffer under their gubernatorial nominee's extremist agenda isn't just the height of hypocrisy. By having their under-ticket candidates join him on the stage, it also sends the message that they've become the 'anti-education' party.

"Our union members believe that Connecticut's public schools are only appropriate venues for political speeches by candidates who actually support public education, not by those who would decimate it."

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*AFT Connecticut represents approximately 30,000 professionals across the state, including PreK-12 teachers, paraeducators and education support personnel in 32 local and regional school districts. For more information, visit [www.aftct.org](http://www.aftct.org) or follow the labor federation on Twitter at [@AFTCT](https://twitter.com/AFTCT) and on Facebook at [AFT Connecticut](https://www.facebook.com/AFTConnecticut).*

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Healthcare  
Higher Education  
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PSRP  
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35 Marshall Road  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067  
860/257-9782  
Fax: 860/257-8214  
Toll Free: 888/398-3373  
[www.aftct.org](http://www.aftct.org)

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