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# VISION

**73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Business Convention**  
**May 9, 2020**

**VIRTUAL MEETING**

# REPORTS

# **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

## **73<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL AFT CONNECTICUT BUSINESS CONVENTION**

This past November, our Convention Committee sat down to develop a theme for this year's business convention. When we decided on the slogan "2020 Vision," we thought it fit perfectly. Two years after Janus, we thought we knew where we stood, and we had a strong sense of where we were going. We did not see this crisis coming. Today, we gather on Zoom from our homes rather than together at the Aqua Turf, and it's sometimes hard to imagine where we go from here, but we still have vision.

On April 28th, AFL-CIO had their annual Workers' Memorial tribute remotely. As always, the message centered on Mother Jones' quote: "mourn for the dead, fight like hell for the living." Though she said those words over 100 years ago, they have never been truer. We do mourn. Jonathan Coelho, a 32-year old JPE member with a young family and a child with serious medical issues, passed recently from COVID-19 he caught at work. We mourned, but as a union we did more. His local went to work to get his family Workers' Compensation and a disability retirement. We have also seen people donating funds for his family. Though his family faces innumerable challenges and unimaginable grief, they have some financial security. That is how union sisters and brothers mourn for the dead.

But that is only half of the quote; we also fight for the living. There have been other tragedies and problems, perhaps not dramatic enough to be on Morning Joe, but no less important to the people involved. Just before sitting down to write, I read an inspirational blog called "Remember the Reason." We must remember the reason we are here and who we are fighting for. We must remember why we are union members. The people on our Business Convention call, the members we as union leaders are representing, are fighting for the good of working people. We are the people standing with the frontline workers. We are the people who are demanding proper protection equipment for the healthcare people most at risk. We are the people who have fought for healthcare insurance and safe work environments for our members so we are not bankrupted by hospital bills. That is what we mean when we say we fight for the living.

In this time of crisis, we must have the conversation with our members and the public to remind them what unionism is about. Sometimes these conversations seem frustrating, difficult, and uncomfortable. But it is we – the people who are giving up their Saturday to be at a Business Convention meeting – who need to initiate those conversations. It is we who need to explain why we are doing the work, why we are in the movement, why we believe that membership in a union that fights for the living is as important as contributing to a GoFundMe page when unfortunately it's already too late. When we talk to our colleagues, when we are talking to our neighbors, when we get discouraged and need to give ourselves a pep talk to keep talking, we need to remember the reason – what got us involved in the first place and what brought us here today. Our story must be heard.

Certainly, the other side – those people who want to sacrifice working people so that billionaires and corporations can have even more – will not be silent. Mitch McConnell was clear there should be no "Blue State Bailouts": The Federal Government should provide no help to states, so they can bankrupt the states, lay off workers, break union contracts, privatize, and get rid of pensions. Those voices are not just coming from Washington. Len Fasano, Themis Klarides, and the House Republican Caucus have sent public letters

to Governor Lamont demanding the same. Their story never changes and is always repeated. Our story must be heard too.

Our State Workers have ensured that our citizens have continued to receive the services that make Connecticut a great place to live. Many of them have been on the frontlines, helping people at the worksite. Despite these efforts, Republicans in both the Senate and House have demanded the Governor unilaterally rescind upcoming raises. Despite the work State Employees have done in 2009, 2011, and 2017, the Republican story never changes – collective bargaining must end. We will stand fearlessly to fight once again to protect collective bargaining, which ensures that workers, and not just the corporate and donor class, has a voice in our employment.

The voices within each of our other divisions must be heard as well. After months of distance learning – which can never replace the personal interaction and relationships that define education – students more than ever are going to need resources to catch up. We need full teaching staffs. We need to keep our para-educators and other support personnel working with our most vulnerable students and assisting our teachers. There will be calls within our state and cities saying this is the time to cut educational funding. In truth, there has never been a more important year to ensure that districts and students receive the support they need. Educators must be heard.

Colleges and universities seem to be considering that remote learning should not just be for emergencies, but the status quo. Our higher ed members' voices must be heard, for themselves and their students. Educators will not be alone. When we have elected officials suggesting older Americans can be endangered so businesses can reopen early, we know our retirees will be under attack. Their story must be heard.

Of course, we must ensure that the thanks to our healthcare workers today are not replaced by cuts tomorrow. During this crisis, our nurses and other healthcare workers struggled to get access to proper personal protective equipment. When we asked for inventory information so our nurses could understand if there was truly a shortage, our big business, private hospital systems refused to give the information. They refused to put the minds of those most likely to contract Covid-19 at ease. The stress and worry over getting the virus, or bringing it home to loved ones, is immeasurable. Seven weeks later, we find the hospitals have more than two weeks supply. Why were they hoarding this necessary lifesaving equipment and lying about its necessity? The good news – many of our nurses found their voices and refused to put their lives at risk. Those that fought, won.

None of this happens without an engaged membership, and none of it happens alone. The expertise, commitment, and experience of our staff is invaluable. Our field reps are busy at work helping our locals get through this crisis and prepare for the crisis ahead. Our organizers continue to work with employees who recognize the need to be in a union and support those new locals. Though the legislature is not in session, with unfathomable public policy decisions and the most important election in our lifetimes lying before us, our political advocates are as busy as ever. And of course, Matt and Neal ensure our members hear from us, and the public hears from them. Our PD and Ed Issues Coordinator ensured that our educators had the information they needed to navigate all the changes in these unique times, and that their feedback and concerns were heard. Our office staff – all of them able to now work from home, half of them pregnant –

kept the organization functioning and ensured the convention went off. We all are incredibly fortunate to have these amazing people working with us.

This requires resources. To maintain our high-quality staff that ensures all our members get the resources they need, we have to make sure our budget is aligned. For the past five years, we have tried to be good stewards of our members' money. We have not raised dues, we have significantly cut spending, and we have absorbed the standard living increases any organization faces. We do not have the reserves some of our larger locals may have, and we have been advised that using our investments would be very unwise at this time. We also recognize that not all locals rely on the State Fed as heavily as most of our medium and smaller locals, but as a union we are one. We do not know what the future may bring and some of the specific fights we will face, but we will fight like hell for all our members. The success of that fight, though, requires resources.

We have faced challenges together before. In preparation for the Janus case, we did what we had to do. We had thousands of discussions in the workplace among our members about the importance and power of belonging to a union. We were told it would destroy us. Instead, both nationally and in CT we have more members than ever. People have chosen to stick with their union. It is now, in times of real crisis, when the importance of that decision matters most. No, we did not foresee where we would be today when we had our first Convention meeting six months ago. Yet the slogan for the convention still fits, though in a way we may not have anticipated. We are beginning to see the shape and size of the battle before us. We see the attacks that are coming. And we see with a clarity that only crisis can bring – that the only way working people will not be the victims of this moment is if we stand together, speak together, and fight together. This will be the fight of and for our lives, but together – and only together – we will win.

Respectfully submitted in solidarity,

Jan Hochadel  
*President, AFT Connecticut*

# **EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

## **73<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL AFT CONNECTICUT BUSINESS CONVENTION**

As I sat to write my report to convention this year, I did as I usually do, I pulled out my calendar to see what had transpired in the past 12 months. I realized my report had to start on February 12 of this year, the day my family lost our son. In one of my darkest moments, my union family was there every step of the way. I am eternally grateful for that support.

The Corona Virus Pandemic was upon us within a month of that day, and it has forever altered our world. We were unprepared for this pandemic, not because we could not foresee it, but because we have not prioritized preparation for it. We have known a pandemic was coming at least since Ebola. Models predicted it would be bad, movies have even been written about it. Yet we find ourselves without the Personal Protection Equipment, without the infrastructure needed, and without the ability to test, track, and contain this pandemic. There are many factors, but at the root of this poor preparation is the fact that we have a healthcare system designed to make profits, not care for people.

This winter and early spring, we fought against the privatization of UConn Farmington. A few months later, we see what the results of a private hospital system that did not see the "business plan" advantage of stocking up on PPE for the pandemic that was coming. As people were laid off from their work, we saw the results of a private insurance industry based on employer provided health insurance. When this pandemic is over, we need to complete our work on a healthcare based on a system where healthcare is a right and profiteering off of peoples suffering is not accepted.

Our members have not only done an amazing job in this pandemic, they have become the heroes of their communities and a voice of reason in a storm of insanity. Our members who can work from home have quickly adjusted to that change. Our public service members have never been more needed as so many turn to state government for support. Our teachers have adjusted on the fly to remote learning and sought solutions to bridge the digital divide. Our PSRPs have continued to feed and care for their students. Our retirees and others have made masks and lobbied for PPE, etc. Our healthcare workers have found themselves in a position they never signed up for. They are caring for patients who have a virus for which there is no definitive treatment, no vaccine, and is very contagious, without a clear knowledge of how it is spread, and that has killed millions of people worldwide. They worry about their own safety, about spreading it to other patients, about bringing it home to their families. They have been taught infection control practices such as disposing of PPE every time they left a room to prevent spread. Now they are told to "make it last," and reuse it for days, even weeks. Hospital systems have become so large and so powerful that they tell the CDC and DPH what the guidelines will be. Guidelines were once based on infection control; they are now based on "supply," for which healthcare systems they will not even disclose their inventory. Even with that, they have had to threaten to quit before being given N95 respirator masks. Our members have become sick from this virus. We have lost members nationally. Here in Connecticut, members and staff have lost loved ones as well. The tragedy of this disease is everywhere.

When someone is backed against a wall, they have two choices – give in or fight back. Our members are fighting back. The level of activism of our Local Presidents is tenfold what it was before. Their engagement with their members and their members’ involvement in the fight is encouraging. Instead of having less contact, they have adapted to telephone town halls, action network, Hustle, Facebook, and other forms of connecting. They have sent demand letters, negotiated MOUs, filed OSHA complaints, started petitions and websites. Not only have we had local presidents told administrators, “My nurses will not be guinea pigs,” we have had individual members refuse to care for Covid patients without an N95, risking their employment in doing so. Our members have spoken on TV, radio, newspapers, podcasts, videos, and even town halls with the former Vice President.

The pandemic will end, but we will not return to how things were. We will have a new normal, hopefully one where we prepare and invest for future pandemics. Already the right wing is coming after us with horror stories of state and municipal budget shortfalls and calls for layoffs of workers to balance them. Already they are attempting to pit public and private sector workers against each other. We must be ready for this argument and we must push back, together.

AFT Connecticut is looked upon for guidance on education, at SEBAC, and increasingly in healthcare. We will all need to be united in providing that guidance. This new activism that I see will need to continue.

I am honored to serve as your Vice President.

Respectively submitted in solidarity,

John Brady  
*Executive Vice President, AFT Connecticut*

# PSRP: ANNUAL DIVISIONAL REPORT

## MAY 2020

**“The people will never be defeated”** - *Alexander the Great*

This year started with a specific agenda and goals for PSRPs. We met with our New Education Commissioner, Miquel Cardona, who embraced our work and our concerns.

There were joint meetings with PreK-12 to discuss our work together, including Teacher/Para Collaboration and how we could work together for the ultimate experience of all children under our care.

We continued having discussions on the attacks of labor, including lack of respect despite the increase of job demands and responsibilities. We educated our members on the importance of attending rallies, board meetings, and to participate in writing letters to legislators who recognize the need to respect labor, and by giving testimony on bills we brought forth with our amazing AFT Legislative Advocates, Jim Vique and Teri Merisotis.

Resources and capacity building are vital for our continued growth and success. We were provided many choices of excellent and meaningful workshops that were specialized to our needs for training by Jennifer Benevento, our amazing Professional Issues & Development Coordinator.

In our continuing fight for fair compensation, we were working on rolling out our living wage increase campaign for PSRPs. We were scheduled to have a press conference and set up to roll out our campaign in order to gain support and to effectively show that PSRPs are underpaid for the work that we do.

Our strategic campaign and roll out was drastically impacted by a global health crisis that has swept through our nation. We are now two months into the COVID-19 Pandemic that forced our school doors to close. These closures have impeded learning, essentially changing education as we know it. All students have faced unforeseen challenges, especially some 80,000 students with disabilities in special education programs. We voiced the concerns of the lack of technology support for paras, and the difficulty of remotely educating students with significant disabilities. These students require support and services that cannot be provided via a computer.

Although we were thrown into uncharted circumstances, together we have been resilient and through unity we will be able to safely reopen our schools. We believe that collaborating with parents and our school leadership, we will be able to aid in making sure the compensatory education and remediation for our special needs students are met.

Union solidarity is essential. Our focus of priority has been to stand with our brothers and sisters in healthcare, and many others on the front lines. The grocery store employees that we stood with last year on the picket lines are now recognized among our essential and front-line workers who are risking their lives every day.

We as PSRPs are doing a lot of things to support our students and families. AFT National has featured the PSRPs around the nation for all that they are doing during this pandemic. AFT National has been having town hall meetings for all members on Covid-19, which were extremely helpful keeping our members informed. We are all in this together and we are fighting to keep our collective bargaining and to ensure protections for our PSRPs.

On the political front, AFT National has endorsed Joe Biden and our Democratic party is coming together with Bernie Sanders supporters, hopefully going forward we will be discussing a coherent program for improving education in America.

So, as we take a moment to reflect where we were and where we are, let's remember to keep up our fight and to think of those we have lost during this crisis.

We are looking for better days ahead and just maybe we will be better coming out of this than we were going in. We will continue to keep the U and I working in Union. We will continue to speak up and stand up for all.

Respectfully submitted in Solidarity,

Shellye Davis

*Divisional Vice President for Paraprofessionals & School-Related Personnel*



# PREK-12: ANNUAL DIVISIONAL REPORT

MAY 2020

As many of you will clearly recall, at the 2019 convention, much was made of the upcoming pandemic, and how this union was going to support our members through the weeks and months of uncertainty, the risks, and the challenges. Well, our careful efforts of preparation have paid off.

Actually, of course, most of that didn't happen. At the time of last year's convention, I had no idea of what was coming. I did know that the PreK-12 Council had been an important source of support through years of challenges with a superintendent who disregarded our contract and treated certified staff as interchangeable classroom managers and test administrators.

What did happen during this crisis was that all of the previous efforts of connecting and engaging our members, developing a robust state organization, all this has contributed to an AFTCT network of political, social, professional, and very basic personal supports to help our members get through this awful time.

Teachers benefited from the work done by the attorneys, the field reps, the lobbyists, the office staff, the officers and divisional vice presidents, and the ability of rank and file members to contribute advice and assistance. Although we were in our own homes, quarantined, self-quarantined, social distancing, remote learning, we were never alone.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Yordon

*Divisional Vice President for PreK-12*

# **PUBLIC EMPLOYEES: ANNUAL DIVISIONAL REPORT**

## **MAY 2020**

Representatives from all seven AFT CT Public Employee locals meet on the second Wednesday of every month. This year, we have discussed issues ranging from how elections are handled in our Constitutions to our preparations for 2021 contract negotiations. One change we made this year was sending our AFT CT dues directly to the State Fed, rather than having the dues go to the National and then eventually return. The first month seems to have gone perfectly.

The Public Employee locals have been as affected by the pandemic as anyone. No local has been more affected than UHP, as they work occasionally with - but mostly in opposition to - the UCONN Health Center to keep their members safe and healthy. A&R fought various agencies that defined employees who could work remotely very narrowly. The three locals who are involved in education – UCPEA, SVFT, and FTCT – dealt in different ways with the challenges and implications of distance learning. Our two judicial units, JPE and the AAGs, have navigated the demands of the court system with the challenges of public health. Tragically, JPE lost a member who passed from exposure to COVID-19.

As always, much of the work AFT CT Public Employee locals did was in coalition with other State Worker unions through SEBAC. The struggles and accomplishments of the first several months have been subsumed by the efforts over the past two months to protect our members. Once the curve of the virus is truly bent, different but very important work remains. The historical economic devastation of our economy cannot fall solely on the backs of the State Employees who have sacrificed so much to ensure that our citizens are provided the services that help make Connecticut a great place to live. While the Public Employee unions have done so much, we know we have even more work looming before us.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ed Leavy

*Divisional Vice President for Public Employees*

# HIGHER EDUCATION: ANNUAL DIVISIONAL REPORT

## MAY 2020

The AFT - CT Higher Education Council has continued its involvement in many of the issues that Colleges and Universities across the country have dealt with over the last few years. Most of these issues have been around for many years. To name a few:

- Privatization
- Funding
- Student Debt
- Attendance Costs, Tuition, Textbooks, etc.
- Academic Freedom College and System Reorganization
- Legislation Community Role(s)
- Remote Learning
- Academic Standards

Currently, much energy has been spent in dealing with the effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Mid-spring 2020 semester at all state colleges and universities closed their doors, sent students home, canceled graduations, sports, and all non-academic programs.

In some cases, the campuses were repurposed to house recovering Covid-19 patients and first responders

All classes went to an online format and will continue online thru the summer, possibly extending into the Fall Semester of 2020. All other college personnel are working from home (telecommuting). This sudden change in working conditions has presented, and continues to present, many challenges, including the need for additional technical support, curriculum revisions, and training. At the moment, this immediate situation has overshadowed many of our other priorities. At some point we hope to be able to fully address the issues I identified earlier in this report.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis Bogusky  
*Divisional Vice President for Higher Education*

## **AFT-CT STATEWIDE RETIREE DIVISION ANNUAL REPORT**

### **MAY 2020**

The AFT Connecticut Retiree Division consists of the presidents and executive officers of the chartered retiree locals. In addition to those members, we have included the members of the newly chartered AFT Connecticut At-Large Retiree Local 8006-R, until such time as this local is fully operational on its own merit, making our Division meetings well rounded with state and local union input.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made it difficult to continue with immediate strategic planning meetings and our Retiree Conference, however, union members rise to the occasion and retiree members are no different. While we all socially distanced and self-quarantined, we still found time to stay in touch by email and telephone. Our monthly meetings were cancelled for a few months but continued by electronic means.

This year we established a sub-committee to find candidates to populate the Teachers Retirement Board (TRB) where possible because for a long time it appeared that the TRB was, and is still, falling behind in its ability or willingness to work with - listen to - retiring and retired teachers. We are looking for TRB members who know about the benefits that meet retiree needs and requirements. As there were several vacancies on the TRB, the sub-committee worked to find a perfect candidate with an exceptional background and knowledge about Social Security and teacher pensions. We enlisted leadership's assistance to bring forward this candidate. Hopefully, if our candidate is confirmed to the TRB, we will move forward to find another.

We also established a sub-committee to work in coalition with thirteen other states and other organizations to change legislation that significantly reduces collection of Social Security or prohibits some retired workers from collecting at all. This legislation affects teachers, police officers, firefighters, and others. This piece of legislation, called the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), affects how Social Security calculates your retirement or disability benefit. We are focused on growing this coalition and making it a nationwide effort to change the WEP.

I reported in last year's convention report that Walter O'Connor and I were members of the AFT Retiree Committee and that the Retiree Committee was working to elevate its status from Retiree Committee to a Program and Policy Council (PPC). We are happy to report that this is only a constitutional amendment away. This amendment will be presented for approval and passage by the AFT membership at the 2020 AFT Convention. Creating a Retiree PPC will allow the retirees to establish programs and policies that will shape the future of AFT relative to retirees and their issues. We are looking forward to its passage by AFT membership. I want to thank President Hochadel for her support with this effort.

We are working closely with Meghan Rozarie, AFT Organization and Field Services, our new AFT liaison. Meghan is working to develop a national retiree organizing program. To that end, our At-Large Retiree Local 8006R has been chosen, along with another New Jersey local, for a pilot project to develop a retiree organizing program. We are looking forward to working with Meghan, our retirees, and the New Jersey AFT local to

establish this program for use nationally for other retiree locals. In addition to the pilot organizing project, several of our retiree locals applied for, and received, grants for organizing within their own locals.

Our retirees continue to remain active by serving in their local communities in government, and volunteering, in addition to serving on AFT Connecticut's LPAC. With the COVID-19 crisis, some of our retirees have come out of retirement to help where they can in dealing with the pandemic. Our members are also working to get retirees, and others, to complete their census.

The AFT Retiree Web Page and Facebook page have been reactivated and can be accessed at <https://www.aft.org/retirement> and <https://www.facebook.com/groups/504165183598210/>. We also electronically disseminated an AFT Retiree Covid Response Survey: <https://forms.gle/y5mQWGKutPduTK5D6>

As we move forward in 2020, our goals continue to include growing our retiree contingent by actively engaging active/in-service union members who are close to retirement, increasing retiree activism, and increasing education of our members on the importance of being actively involved in working with the union to protect our pensions and healthcare. We also are mindful of working with active/in-service members to ensure pay, pension, healthcare, and workplace safety are preserved.

Respectfully submitted,

Laila Mandour, Chair  
AFT Connecticut Retiree Division

## **FERGUSON, DOYLE & CHESTER, P.C.**

MAY 2019 – APRIL 2020

These are highlights of some of the areas that the firm provided legal services to AFT Connecticut. During the last year we were involved in over 195 DCF Investigations. Additionally, we defended school employees at 14 DCF Substantiation Appeal Hearings.

During the last year we provided defense to tenured teachers who were being terminated. This number includes cases that were settled during the statutory hearing process as well as those that went through the hearing process to a decision. Included in this number of 25 were numerous meetings with the client to work out settlement agreements and/or prepare the client for his/her termination hearings, as well as writing briefs and reply briefs at the end of the proceedings.

The firm represents our members for Workers' Compensation claims. We have attended and advocated at over 100 Workers' Compensation Hearings from the Informal, Pre-Formal and Formal Administrative Trial Hearings. We have also met with numerous clients regarding their workers' compensation cases and/or answering questions regarding procedures. The firm has been working with AFTCT leadership, other labor leaders as well as the Governor's office to draft legislation to provide coverage under the Workers' Compensation Act for our members who contracted COVID-19 in the course of their employment,

In the last year we have defended members for Unemployment Appeal Hearings before the State Labor Department Trial Referee.

In the last year the firm has defended Duty of Fair Representation claims brought against AFT CT Locals at the State Board of Labor Relations or Connecticut Superior Courts. Additionally we represented AFT CT Locals at numerous Labor Board Hearings, NLRB Hearings and AAA Hearings throughout the course of the year. These total approximately 25 Hearings. The firm is happy to report a successful outcome in a recent case involving an organizing campaign to organize Unit Directors into the Administrative and Residual Union, Local 4200, AFT-CT. We have also represented two locals in organizing campaigns in the private sector. One with a positive outcome where the Union prevailed in its election to organize new members while another is currently pending before the NLRB.

We also provided formal and informal legal opinions to numerous AFT CT Locals. The firm was also involved with legislative matters during the 2019-2020 session of the General Assembly as well as this most recent legislative session.



## 2020 Legislative Session Summary

The 2020 CT General Assembly legislative session started in February and ended abruptly 5 weeks later. The session had barely begun; public hearings had just started happening and very few committees had voted bills out to the floor. We expected to come back a few weeks later but that never happened. As of right now, the official end of session ended at midnight on May 6<sup>th</sup>. There has been discussion about the legislature coming back for a special session in June or July to vote on a budget or an omnibus bill with items that are not controversial. We will see what happens; discussions on social distancing, public participation; and safety still need to all be worked out.

So, before the closing of the Legislative Office Building, we were on our way to getting some good things passed. The AFTCT Legislative Conference was held in late February with 120 members attending: many attending for the first time. We also had over 20 members that either wrote or testified at the public hearing. We also had 6 regional meetings scheduled but we had to cancel them because of COVID.

Here is the legislation AFTCT was working on:

### Labor Issues:

- [SB 318](#) An Act Protecting Employee Freedom of Speech and Conscience. To prohibit an employer from coercing any employee into attending or participating in a meeting sponsored by the employer concerning the employer's views on political or religious matters. SB 318 had a public hearing in the Judiciary Committee. It never had a vote in committee. **(SUPPORT)**
- [SB 348](#) AA Establishing a Task Force Regarding the State Workforce and Retiring Employees. SB 348 had a public hearing and was voted out of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. **(SUPPORT)**
- [HB 5270](#) AAC the Right of a Public Employee to Join or Support a Union. To protect the rights of public employees to join or support unions. **(SUPPORT)**
- [HB 5409](#) An Act Concerning the Nondisclosure of Residential Addresses of Attorney General Employees. To prohibit the disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act of the residential address of employees of the office of the Attorney General. HB 5049 had a public hearing in the Government Administration and Elections Committee. It was never voted out of committee. **(SUPPORT)**
- [SR 6/HR 8](#) Resolution to approve a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the State of Connecticut and the State Employees' Bargaining Agent Coalition (SEBAC), which extends the amortization period of the statutory portion of the State Employees' Retirement System's (SERS) unfunded accrued liability (UAL) from 2032 to 2047 to be

consistent with the transitional UAL. SR 6 and HR 8 had a public hearing and a voted out of the Appropriations Committee. It passed out of the House and Senate. **(SUPPORT)**

#### **Healthcare Issues:**

- [HB 5044](#) AAC Immunization would eliminate the non-medical exemptions to vaccines and elimination of the religious exemption for vaccines. HB 5044 had a public hearing and was voted out of the Public Health Committee. **(SUPPORT)**
- [SB 346](#) An Act Concerning Public Option in Healthcare in Connecticut. To: (1) Establish the ConnectHealth Program, the ConnectHealth Trust Account and the ConnectHealth Advisory Board; (2) require the Comptroller, in consultation with the ConnectHealth Advisory Board and the Office of Health Strategy, to establish the ConnectHealth Plan; (3) authorize the Comptroller to offer coverage to plan participants and beneficiaries in this state under a multiemployer plan, nonprofit employers and their employees, and small employers and their employees; and (4) require the Commissioner of Social Services to seek to amend the federal waiver for the state-wide dental plan that provides for the administration of the dental services portion of the department's medical assistance to expand coverage to include additional individuals in this state. SB 346 had a public hearing and was voted out of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee. **(SUPPORT)**

#### **Privatization Issues:**

- [SB 480](#) AAC Public Private Partnerships and Privatization of State Services at the University of CT Health Center. To require The University of Connecticut Health Center to obtain the approval of the General Assembly prior to soliciting bids or a request for proposals for a privatization or public-private partnership contract. SB 480 was raised in the Government, Administration and Elections Committee but never had a public hearing. **(SUPPORT)**
- [SB 269](#) AAC Certification of independent Inspectors and Inspection Firms to Perform Elevator, Escalator and State Building Code Inspections. To establish a program to certify independent inspectors and inspection firms to perform State Building Code and elevator and escalator inspections. SB 269 had a public hearing in the Public Safety and Security Committee. It did not have a vote in committee. **(OPPOSE)**
- [HB 5365](#) AAC the Insurance Department's Recommendations Regarding the Public Health Fee, Third Party Performance of the Department's Employees' Duties, the Insurance Data Security Law and Assessments Against Domestic Insurance Companies and Entities. To (1) modify reporting requirements, and impose a late filing fee and penalty, concerning the public health fee, (2) permit attorneys, actuaries, accountants and experts to perform certain duties currently performed by the Insurance Department's employees, (3) modify the Insurance Data Security Law, and (4) modify the payment schedule for assessments against domestic insurance companies and other domestic entities. HB 5365 had a public hearing and was passed out of the Insurance Committee without Section 2 which would have deleted Lines 85-87 that establishes that the work of the agency is to be conducted by Insurance Department employees and the work is not to be performed by outside consulting firms or vendors. **(SUPPORT with substitute language)**



### Workplace Safety and Staffing:

- [HB 5431](#) AAC Indoor Air Quality in Schools. To require local and regional boards of education to maintain healthy indoor air quality in their schools. HB 5431 had a public hearing in the Public Health Committee. It did not have a vote in committee. **(SUPPORT)**

### Education Issues

- [HB 5112](#) AAC the Budget of the CT State Colleges and Universities. To require the Board of Regents for Higher Education to include the central office in the itemization of its budget request. HB 5112 had a public hearing and was voted out of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee. **(SUPPORT)**
- [HB 5113](#) AA Requiring Legislative Approval for the Merger or Closing of Institution with the CT State College and Universities. To require legislative approval for the merger or closing of institutions within the Connecticut state colleges and universities. HB 5113 had a public hearing in the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee. It was not voted out of committee. **(SUPPORT)**
- [HB 5114](#) An Act Requiring Training for the Members of the Governing Boards of the Institution of Higher Education in the State. To require training of each board member responsible for governing any institution of higher education in the state. HB 5114 had a public hearing and was voted out of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee. **(SUPPORT)**
- [HB 5353](#) An Act Funding the Debt-free Community College Program. To appropriate sixteen million dollars to the debt-free community college program and to establish an account for such program into which will be deposited state appropriations and any moneys received from any online offering of lottery draw games. HB 5353 had a public hearing in the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee. It was not voted out of committee. **(SUPPORT)**
- [HB 5376](#) An Act Concerning the Implementation of edTPA As Part of Educator Preparation Programs. To cease implementation of edTPA in the state and require each educator preparation program to develop and implement its own preservice performance assessment. HB 5376 had a public hearing in the Education Committee. It did not get a vote in committee. **(SUPPORT)**
- [HB 5439](#) An Act Concerning Various Revision and Additions to the Education Statutes; section 6 which would ask the School Paraeducator Advisory Council to conduct a study around paraeducator issues. HB 5439 had a public hearing in the Education Committee. It was never voted out of committee. **(SUPPORT)**
- [HB 5214](#) An Act Concerning the Provision of Special Education at Technical Education and Career Schools. To repeal the provision permitting the referral of a special education student enrolled in a technical education and career school to the school district in which such student resides. HB 5214 had a public hearing in the Education Committee. It did not get vote in committee. **(OPPOSE)**
- [HB 5215](#) AAC the Inclusion of Climate Change Instruction in the Public-School Curriculum. To include climate change instruction in the public-school curriculum of the state. HB 5215 had a public hearing in the Education Committee. It did not get a vote in committee. **(SUPPORT)**
- [HB 5378](#) An Act Concerning the Integration of Social-emotional Learning in Programs of

Professional Development For Educators In Connecticut. To integrate the principles and practices of social- emotional learning in the program of professional development for educators in the state. To integrate the principles and practices of social-emotional learning in the program of professional development for educators in the state. HB 5378 had a public hearing in the Education Committee. It did not get a vote in committee.

**(SUPPORT)**

- [SB 367](#) An Act Subjecting the Partnership for Connecticut, INC. to the Freedom of Information Act and State Ethics Code. To subject The Partnership for Connecticut, Inc. to the Freedom of Information Act and state ethics code. SB 367 had a public hearing the Government Administration. It did not get a vote in committee. **(OPPOSE)**
- [SB 17](#) An Act Requiring the Completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. To include completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the application for institutional financial aid for undocumented students, or a waiver form as a condition to high school graduation. SB 17 had a public hearing and a vote out of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee. **(OPPOSE)**
- [S.B. No. 314](#) An Act Concerning the Inclusion of Native American Studies in the Social Studies Curriculum. To include Native American studies in the social studies curriculum for public schools. SB 314 had a public hearing in the Education Committee. It did not get a vote in committee. **(SUPPORT)**