



AFT Connecticut
AFT, AFL-CIO

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Comments on Governor's Veto of Legislative Special Education Resources Package

AFT Connecticut Vice Presidents for PreK-12 Leslie Blatteau and Paraprofessionals and School-Related Personnel (PSRP) Shellye Davis made the following public remarks on Governor Ned Lamont's line-item veto of H.B. 7067:

"The governor should have signed, not vetoed, the state legislature's recently passed special education funding package," said Blatteau. "Many of the regional and local school districts, where our colleagues teach and support students, are facing budget shortfalls this fiscal year. Now is not the time to take an axe to vital resources when so many districts are facing growing special education caseloads and struggling to meet students' needs."

"The emergency is now and our students with special needs need a lifeline this school year, not an anchor like the governor's veto," said Davis. "Cuts to federal education funding, being pushed by the new Congress and administration in the White House, threaten an even more dire future. State lawmakers offered real solutions that the governor should have embraced, not rejected," added Davis, who also serves as president of the Hartford Federation of Paraeducators, AFT Local 2221.

Blatteau added, "our General Assembly already did their homework; now the governor has given them an opportunity to earn some much-needed extra credit. They must come together to protect our kids by overriding this misguided veto," added Blatteau, who is also president of the New Haven Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 933.

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