



Testimony on House Bill 6935 (“An act concerning the right of a public employee to join or support a union”)

Submitted by Scott Shepard, Policy Director

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Good afternoon. My name is Scott Shepard. I am the Policy & Research Director for the Yankee Institute for Public Policy, Connecticut’s free-market think tank. I submit this note in opposition to **House Bill 6935**.

This a deeply disturbing bill. It demonstrates a vision of Connecticut that places the needs and interests of government union leaders above those of Connecticut’s government employees and also above those of the state of Connecticut itself, and thus above those of every citizen of Connecticut.

The state, through its managers, should not only be permitted but required to communicate workers’ rights directly to them, without hindrance from government union leaders or any other parties. Government should be transparent; individual rights should be clear. These propositions are not controversial in almost any other sphere of government action, but such is the overwhelming power of the government employee unions in this state that this bill subverts both of those basic principles in favor of the unions’ interests.

Note the one-sided nature of this proposal. It does not propose that each time either the state or the union wishes to communicate about union issues and employee freedoms with government workers, the other side gets a chance to review and revise the communication, or at least a right to add its own thoughts to the transmission. Rather, *the union, and only the union*, gets to review and censor or piggyback on every communication from the state, while the state has no oversight rights when the union communicates with those employees.

This unilateral oversight and interference right plainly privileges the union leaders over the state’s elected and appointed officials, and their representatives. It makes the government-employee union leaders the minders of the government, and in important ways gives them oversight over the people whom the state is constituted to represent.

We stand with the people of Connecticut, and oppose this bill. On similar grounds, we oppose the related proposed legislation, **House Bill 6930**.