



My name is Carol Platt Liebau, and I am the President of Yankee Institute. We are here to support House Bill 5637 and oppose House Bills 6926; 6935; and 6936.

All concern the relationship between our state workers, government unions, and the state itself.

Our government workers have every right to belong to the union. And they should be able to access information that lets them choose union representation easily, and in a way that minimizes the chance they will experience any fear, harassment or intimidation, if that's what they want.

Conversely, if state workers decline union representation, the same conditions should apply. Simple fairness requires us to treat all our state workers equally -- whether or not we, personally, approve of the choices they make when it comes to union representation.

House Bill 5637 upholds this principle. It simply requires clear and conspicuous statements regarding state and local workers' rights to choose or decline state union membership. But the other three bills favor government union leaders above state workers; the people's elected and appointed representatives; and even the law itself.

HB 6926 requires government to give state workers' private information to unions, including home addresses and phone numbers. It places no limits on use of the information -- or any exemptions for those who don't want their information turned over, or who have resigned from the union. The potential for privacy violations, harassment or abuse is obvious.

HB 6935 prevents government from communicating with its own employees about their worker rights without review or input from government union leaders. The proposal is entirely one-sided -- no reciprocal rights are bestowed on government employers -- and plainly privileges union leaders over Connecticut's elected and appointed representatives.

Finally, by forcing state workers to direct requests to resign from the union to the union itself, HB 6936 exposes state workers to potential bullying and harassment, should they decline union representation. We know that this bullying and harassment is already occurring. We must work together to create safety and dignity for government workers in asserting their civil rights.

It is reasonable that government unions look on the *Janus v. AFSCME* decision with disfavor. It is *not* reasonable for them to demand a monopoly on the *Janus* election process; on information about who has elected not to join the union; and on how or when that election can be made and under what circumstances it will be honored. Yet that is precisely what this bill proposes.

Connecticut's state workers deserve to be treated with care and fairness. They must never be oppressed – regardless of whether or not they choose to join a government union. That is why we oppose HBs 6926; 6935; and 6936; and support HB 5637.