

Council 4 Legislative Alert: 2/27/17

Stop the Attacks on Our Pay, Pension & Healthcare

- State legislators have sponsored in excess of 100 proposed bills, such as **HB 5552** (which strip state and municipal workers of the right to bargain over retirement) that represent attacks on our pay, retirements, and health care benefits. **These attack would move our state backwards.**
 - Our state budget is suffering because our economy and communities are suffering. But they are not suffering due to lack of economic growth. They are suffering because far too much of that growth is going to the tiny percentage of super-rich.
 - Collective bargaining is the most effect force we have to spread the gains of economic growth to working families instead of the tiny few
 - Restricting collective bargaining, and lowering standards for working families private and public, will only make our economy more ineffective and unfair, and our state budget problems worse
 - Collective bargaining agreements are important because they help set the standards for wages, benefits and working conditions for all workers.
- Cutting the cost of benefits is often cited as a reason for restricting collective bargaining rights, but **strong collective bargaining rights are essential to creating an upwardly mobile middle class** and economic prosperity.
 - We need to continue the fight for good affordable health care and pension benefits for all working families. A rising tide lifts all boats.
 - Collective bargaining is a strong safeguard against political cronyism. It encourages employees to speak out about issues hurting the public without fear of retaliation by politicians
 - Collective bargaining makes making important benefits subjects of contracts determined through negotiation and sometimes by neutral arbitrators rather than the whims of politicians
 - Collective bargaining encourages long service employees thus reducing training costs and improving public services

- (1) **Contact your legislators. Tell them to oppose attacks our pay, retirement and health care.**
- (2) **Sign up for Council 4's email blasts and text alerts on our home page at www.council4.org.**

Our Message To Legislators and the Public:

1. Public employees did not cause CT's budget deficit.
2. We provide vital services that people need. We are a bargain.
3. We pay taxes, purchase goods and services etc. in our communities. We keep the economy moving.
4. Taking money out of the pockets of middle class workers will make things worse.
5. Instead of punishing public workers, legislators need to restore taxes on the wealthy and close loopholes that benefit big corporations.

Get Informed. Get Involved.

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