

CSC Members Speak Out Against Bill Targeting Overtime in Pensions

"We've Earned Every Penny"

State employees packed the Legislative Office Building in Hartford on March 28th to speak out against Senate Bill 25, which would eliminate the use of overtime in calculating state employee pensions. Correctional staff, nurses, maintenance workers, and other frontline employees filled the Appropriations Committee public hearing room, arguing that the bill would gut a key promise made through collective bargaining.

Among those testifying was Michael Pearson, a Lieutenant with the Department of Correction and proud CSEA SEIU Local 2001 member. With 17 years of hazardous duty service under his belt, Pearson delivered searing testimony that laid bare the physical, emotional, and psychological costs of the job—and the betrayal he feels this bill represents.

"The average life expectancy of a correctional officer is only 59 years," Pearson told

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CSC Chief Steward Brandon McCloud testified in opposition of SB25 which would remove overtime from pension calculations.



The Special Olympics event was full of laughs and smiles from members, family and staff that attended the event.

CSEA Members Show Up Big for CT Special Olympics

Good Works Committee Report

CSEA members turned out in full force to support this year's Connecticut Special Olympics, making it a memorable and meaningful day for all involved. Representing the Good Works Committee were Michelle Rame (P4-Chapter 9), Stephanie O'Day (P3A), Dawn McKay (P4-Chapter 24), Mark Kirschner (Retiree), and Robin

Moussa (Para-ACES).

CSEA Executive Administrator Val Latarulo and her daughter Mary joined the team of volunteers, along with CSEA Secretary/Treasurer Diane Murphy's son, Josh. Also lending their time and energy were Kelly Perrotta (P3B) and her family, Beatrice Perez

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CSEA Council 400 Vice President, Patrice Peterson (left) introduces Congressman John Larson at the Town Hall hosted at CSEA.

Congressman Larson Partners with CSEA for March

Town Halls, Medicaid Rally & Press Conferences

Press Conference to Protect Social Security

CSEA President Travis Woodward and Council 400 leader Bette Marafino joined Congressman John Larson for a press conference on February 28th to call out the reported plan to gut the Social Security Administration.

"This has nothing to do with governmental efficiency and everything to do with finding \$2 trillion to pay for another round of tax breaks for the

wealthy," said Larson, standing with supporters outside of the East Hartford Social Security field office. "Social Security already operates with administrative costs of under one percent with staffing at a fifty-year low. These cuts will result in the delay, disruption, and denial of hard-working Americans' earned benefits."

He added, "When I return to Washington next week, I will be introducing

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Visit our union's website at: **CSEA-CT.com**

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Meetings
And News

The April Delegates Meeting will be held as a hybrid meeting on Thursday April 17th at 10am at the CSEA Union Hall and via Zoom

Chapter 401 (Hartford area)
Thursday, May 1st - 1pm
CSEA Union Hall & Zoom
760 Capitol Ave., Hartford
Zoom Mtg ID: 83617277918
Patrice Peterson:860 416-0306

Chapter 402 (Danbury area)
Wed.,April 9th - 10am
Speaker: Bernadette Conway
CSEA Retiree Coordinator
United Methodist Church
5 Clapboard Ridge Road
Danbury, CT
Linda Albanese:860 354-6965

Chapter 403 (Norwich area)
Tues.,April 8th - 1:30pm
Rose City Senior Center
8 Mahan Drive, Norwich
Carol Burgess:860 303-7267

Chapter 404 (Waterbury area)
Tues.April 8th - 10am
Speaker: Cigna Dental
Trinity Orthodox Church
937 Chase Pkwy,Waterbury
Tina Franco: (203) 721-4382

Chapter 405 (New Haven)
Thurs.April 10th - 10:30am
Speaker: Bernadette Conway
CSEA Retiree Coordinator
Hamden Government
Center Building, 3rd Floor
2750 Dixwell Ave., Hamden
Sue Pierson (203) 376-7207

Chapter 406 (Middletown)
NO APRIL MEETING
Tues. May 13th - 12:30pm
Speaker:Aetna Representative
American Legion Post 75
58 Bernie O’Rourke Dr.
Middletown, CT

Chapter 407 (Bridgeport area)
Wed.,April 16th 1pm
St. Josephs of Stratford
National Catholic Church
Speaker:Aetna Representative
1300 Stratford Rd., Stratford
Zoom ID: 872 4952 3823
Passcode: 000891
Liz Anderson (203) 676-0659

Chapter 408 (Willimantic)
Wed.,April 9th, 12:30pm
Speaker:Aetna Representative
Mansfield Senior Center
303 Maple Rd., Storrs
Doug Racicot (860) 234-2537

Chapter 409 (Retired
State University Professors)
Friday, April 25th - 10am
CSEA Union Hall & Zoom
760 Capitol Ave., Hartford
Zoom ID: 868 8922 7158
Dave Walsh (860) 684-4773

Chapter 410 (Windsor area)
NEW MEETING SPACE
Monday, April 14th - 1pm
Speaker:Aetna Representative
Kent Memorial Library
50 N Main St, Suffield
Amelia Smith 860 687-1848

Chapter 411 (Rocky Hill area)
Spring Luncheon
June 19th - Location TBD
Subby Puglisi 860 529-8336

Chapter 412 (Putnam area)
Tues.,April 15th - 1:30pm
Speaker: Bernadette Conway
CSEA Retiree Coordinator
New Putnam Town Hall
200 School Street, Putnam
Don Gladding (860) 933-9998

Chapter 414 (Torrington area)
Monday, April 21 at 10am
Speaker: Natalie Webb
Licensed Dietician
Five Point Extension Bldg
852 University Dr., Torrington
Kathryn Doan 860 324-8300

Chapter 415 (Manchester)
Mon.,April 28th - 1pm
Speaker:Aetna Representative
Elks Lodge in Manchester
30 Bissell Street
Stu Clark: (860) 205-0657

Chapter 416 (New London)
Tues.April 8th at 12pm
Speaker: Probate Judge,
Beth Ladwig Leamon
Groton Public Library
52 Newtown Rd., Groton
John Knaff: 860-857-4244

Chapter 417 (Plainville area)
Wed.,April 9th - 1pm
Plainville Public Library
56 East Main St., Plainville
Mark Kirschner
(860) 882-2717

Chapter 418
(Community College Retirees)
Tues.,April 15th - 10am
Speaker: Kevin Sullivan,
CSEA Retiree Organizer
4C’s Union Hall in Hartford
907 Wethersfield Ave
Colleen Richard
(860) 202-4128

Chapter 441: Cape Cod, MA
Wednesday, May 21 at 10am
Speaker: Kevin Sullivan,
CSEA Retiree Organizer
South Yarmouth Public Library
312 Old Main Street
South Yarmouth, MA
Richard Peterson
(203) 507-1189

Important numbers to have on hand:

- Retirement Division Payroll: 860-702-3528
- Aetna Customer Service: 1-855-648-0391
- Retirement Division Life Insurance: 860-702-3537
- Caremark: 1-800-318-2572
- Retirement Division Health Insurance: 860-702-3533
- Cigna: 1-800-244-6224
- Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield: 1-800-922-2232
- CSEA Retiree Organizer; Kevin Sullivan: 860-951-6614 x118
- HEP Care Management Solutions: 1-877-687-1448 or visit them at their portal: <https://www.connect2yourhealth.com/ParticipantPortal/Default.aspx>

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Good Friday
April 18th

Dividend Rates - First Quarter Rates

	Dividend Rate	Percentage Yield
REGULAR SHARES	2.50%	2.53%
SHARE DRAFTS (Checking)	1.25%	1.26%
CLUB ACCOUNTS	2.00%	2.02%

Minimum opening balance \$25.00. The annual percentage yield is accurate as of the last dividend declaration date. Rate may change after the account is opened. Fees or other conditions may reduce the earnings on the account.

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MIDDLETOWN 15 Ward Street Middletown, CT 06457 (860) 347-0479	STORRS 1244 Storrs Rd. Storrs, CT 06268 (860) 429-9306	SOUTHBURY Southbury Training School P.O. Box 644 Southbury, CT 06488 (203) 267-7610
		NEWINGTON O'Neil Plaza 2434 Berlin Turnpike Newington, CT 06111 (860) 667-7668

Hours: Main Office: Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm Branches: Mon-Fri, 9:30am-4pm
Drive-Up Teller (Hartford & Middletown): Mon-Fri, 8:30am-4pm; Paydays Open Until 5pm

Gone too Soon:
CSEA Members Who Have Passed On

The Office of the State Comptroller has provided CSEA with the following members that have recently passed away. Our condolences are with their friends, family and loved ones.

Arre, Sherry, Judicial Marshal
Barile, Jerelyn, Administrative
Clerical
Barnes, Gregory, Judicial
Barrus, Robert, Judicial
Beaulier, Arnold, Service/
Maintenance
Brown, Sally, Uconn Health Center
Canfield, George, Managerial
Carnelli, Anthony, Service/
Maintenance
Clancy, Sheila, Judicial
Conkling, Frances, Education B
Corbett, Ruthellen, Comm College
Faculty
Dellert, Robert, St Vocation
Federation Teacher
Dingee, Nancy, Administrative
Clerical
Gibson, Gerald, Protective Services
Greaney, Ellen, Judicial
Griswold, Gordon, Service/
Maintenance
Harold, Judith, Social And Human
Service
Harris, Edward, State University
Hartigan, William, Engineer, Scien,
Tech
Heck, John, Protective Services
Heres Jr, Celestino, Comm College
Faculty
Jubrey, Shirley, Administrative
Clerical
Kobus, Thomas, State Police
Martucci, Sharon, Healthcare
Mccoy, David, Admin And Residual
Mihalek, Gary, Healthcare
Miskimen, Jay, Service/Maintenance
More, Joseph, Managerial
Naylor, Beverly, Admin And Residual
Nelligan, James, Service/
Maintenance
O'keefe, Michelle, Correctional
Officer

Ozerhoski, Eugene, State Police
Pannone, Joanne, American Fed Of
School
Pannone, John, Social And Human
Service
Pappano, Achilles, Uconn Health
Center
Pittman, Fannie, Healthcare
Pocock, Emil, State University
Pugliese, Dorothy, Healthcare
Quick, Franklin, Healthcare
Reed, Herbert, Criminal Justice
Residual
Robtoy, Adelphis, Service/
Maintenance
Roy, Mark, Uconn
Silva, Ruby, St Vocation Federation
Teacher
Sparks, Robert, Service/
Maintenance
Sparmer, Robert, Comm College
Faculty
Spruill, William, Elected Or
Appointed
Stanowski, Zigmund, Service/
Maintenance
Tanner, David, Service/Maintenance
Upton, David, Service/Maintenance
Wojick, Frederick, St Vocation
Federation Teacher
Woolsey, William, Correctional
Officer

CSEA NEWS

The Voice of Connecticut's
Public Service Employees & Retirees

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www.csea-ct.com.

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Members in the Spotlight

Dora Bennett & Amelia Smith Honored

Dora Bennett (P3B) Honored at “Walk N’ Talk With A Doc” Women’s Day Celebration

CSEA is proud to recognize the powerful contributions of P3B’s own Dora Bennett, who was one of several inspiring honorees at the “Walk N’ Talk With A Doc” Women’s History Month celebration. Hosted by Black Women United and supported by a coalition of local organizations, the event honored five remarkable women for their strength, service, and commitment to uplifting their communities.

Among the honorees was Dora Bennett, a longtime special education instructor at Southbury Training School and a steadfast advocate in the Waterbury community. Dora has devoted 37 years of her career to teaching cognitive and life skills to individuals with developmental delays. Beyond her work as an educator, Dora’s civic engagement is expansive. Beyond her leadership roles in CSEA, Dora has been active in the National Congress of Black Women, Waterbury NAACP, the Palace Theater Board, and the African-American Mayor for the Day Committee.

Dora’s honor at the Women’s Day event is a testament to her unwavering commitment to the values we hold dear in our union: dignity, equity, and justice for all. We’re grateful to have leaders like

Dora in our ranks—leading by example and inspiring the next generation of changemakers. Congratulations, Dora, and thank you for everything you do!

Amelia Smith (Council 400) Honored at “Call Their Names” Event for Advocacy and Community Leadership

CSEA is also proud to celebrate Amelia Smith, Chapter 410 President, Delegate to Council 400, and Connecticut Alliance for Retired Americans (CTARA) Liaison, who was recently honored by the Institute for Cross-Cultural Awareness and Transformative Education (ICUTE) at the 2025 Call Their Names event.

The event was a powerful, livestreamed ceremony recognizing individuals who have made lasting contributions to social justice, community empowerment, and cross-cultural understanding. The annual event shines a light on those whose work embodies ICUTE’s mission of transformative education and raising awareness of systemic inequities.

Amelia’s decades-long commitment to union advocacy, intergenerational justice, and equity work made her a natural honoree. We are thrilled to see her dedication recognized on such a meaningful platform. Congratulations, Amelia, on this well-de-

served honor and thank you for continuing to lead with courage and compassion!



Dora Bennett is honored at the Walk N’ Talk with a Doc Women’s Day Celebration.

Anti-Union Activity Alert:

Freedom Foundation Targets CSEA Members with False Promises

Many of us got a piece of mail from the Freedom Foundation with a big shamrock and a false promise that state employees can save some money. Throw it out. If you don’t know about the Freedom Foundation, it’s an anti-worker group funded by billionaires whose only purpose is to reduce our pay, benefits, and

workplace protections by weakening our union. They send mail like this asking people to drop their membership, but they don’t tell you what that means for you.

Standing together in our union we achieved major wins - at the bargaining table, in the legislature and for our communities. And we held on to those wins

because we’re union. That makes us strong.

We’re strong because we are united in our union. Being a member of CSEA means having a strong organization that we own, fighting to improve our lives and protect our rights at work. We need to stick together and keep our union strong.

So again, take that piece of mail and throw it out.

You can read more about the Freedom Foundation scheme here: <https://accountablenw.org/in-the-news/pension-cuts-lay-offs-freedom-foundation/>

CSEA Members Show Up Big for CT Special Olympics

Good Works Committee Report

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(P3B), John Layman (P4-Chapter 9), Brittany Bendel (P4-Chapter 24), and Joyce Thorner (Council 400).

It was a beautiful event filled with camaraderie and community spirit. Volunteers helped

guide athletes to their events and supported competitions like cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Our members stood out in their Good Works ear warmers—thank you to Bernadette Conway, Director of Administrative & Retiree

Services, for organizing registration and ensuring we had coordinated gear for those picture-perfect moments. We’re grateful to all the CSEA members and family who made the day so special. A special shout out goes to Stephanie

O’Day, whose enthusiasm and leadership continue to fuel our community engagement. Thank you all for representing CSEA with such heart and dedication!



P3B member Kelly Perrotta brought along the whole family to support the Special Olympics



CSEA members, family and staff showed up to support the Good Works Committee and the Special Olympics.

Congressman Larson Partners with CSEA for March

Town Halls, Medicaid Rally & Press Conferences

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legislation to halt their plan to close field offices.”

“We firmly oppose proposals aimed at dismantling the Social Security Administration. Such measures would force thousands of dedicated public servants into layoffs, crippling a vital agency that millions depend on,” said Woodward, “These cuts will have real, devastating consequences—forcing our retirees to choose between life-saving medications and basic necessities, and pushing far too many seniors into poverty”

“This is cruel,” said Marafino, Council 400 Retiree and President of the Connecticut Alliance for Retired Americans. “We know that for years Social Security offices have been understaffed and underfunded. Forty percent of seniors rely on Social Security as their sole income every month—to delay checks would be absolutely cruel.”

Woodward and Marafino thanked Larson and the other members of Connecticut’s congressional delegation for their steadfast support for Social Security and called on Connecticut residents to reach out to family and friends who live in other states and ask them to urge their members of Congress to fight to preserve the Social Security Administration.

CSEA Retirees Turn Out Strong to Defend Medicaid at Capitol Rally

CSEA Council 400 retirees joined hundreds

of fellow union members, advocates and elected officials for a rally at the State Capitol to defend Medicaid. With harmful federal cuts to Medicaid on the table, the Trump Administration is attempting to balance budgets on the backs of working families and seniors.

The rally, which drew a crowd of hundreds, was held in response to growing threats from Congressional Republicans to slash Medicaid funding—a move that would jeopardize care for millions of Americans, including nearly one million Connecticut residents who rely on the program. From long-term care and home health services to doctor visits and prescriptions, Medicaid is a lifeline for older adults, people with disabilities, and low-income families across our state.

Prior to the rally, U.S. Representative John Larson joined members for an intimate town hall meeting at the CSEA Union Hall, where he spoke candidly with union members from across the Connecticut AFL-CIO network, including a strong showing from CSEA Council 400. In the town hall, Rep. Larson emphasized his commitment to protecting Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, and heard directly from members about the impact of rising costs

and threats to healthcare access.

Participants shared stories that underscored the stakes of this fight—not as a political issue, but as a matter of dignity, survival, and justice. Many have spent their careers in public service and now depend on Medicaid to supplement their care in retirement. For them, these cuts are not abstract; they are personal.



Council 400 Member Amelia Smith (left) stands with Congressman Larson following his Town Hall.

CSEA Member Honored as Support Staff of the Year at 2025 CAACE Conference



P3B member Alicia Kelly-Brown is recognized as the CAACE Support Staff of the Year.

P3B member Alicia Kelly-Brown was recognized at the Connecticut Association of Adult and Continuing Education (CAACE) Conference with the Support Staff of the Year award—a well-deserved honor that reflects her unwavering commitment to the students she serves through the Connecticut Department of Correction.

Although Ms. Kelly-Brown is a recent addition to CSEA in her current role as a Correctional Transition Instructor, she brings with her two decades of service to the State of Connecticut—and a legacy of dedication that shines through in

her work each day. She spoke candidly about the inequities her students face and emphasized the importance of individualized support, care, and advocacy. Her passion for the work was undeniable as she described the relationships she builds with students and the pride she takes in helping them reach their goals.

Congratulations Alicia Kelly-Brown on this well-earned honor, and we thank you for being a shining example of the heart, strength, and professionalism that define our union.

Paraeducators Hold Quarterly Council Meeting

CSEA paraeducators gathered at North Haven ACES for a Para Council meeting that included a collective bargaining training led by Kevin Merik, CSEA’s Director of Field Services. Also discussed was this year’s key piece of legislation, House Bill 7010, which recently passed the Education Committee after a public hearing. While the bill includes some progress on healthcare and retirement benefits, it fails to address the urgent need for wage

increases—a critical step toward solving the ongoing recruitment and retention crisis in the profession.

The bill now heads directly to the Appropriations Committee, where it must be voted out by the April 25 Joint Favorable deadline.



CSEA Paraeducators came together for the March quarterly council meeting in North Haven.

Aetna Healthy Rewards: Taking Action on your Health Has its Perks

The State of Connecticut Retiree's Medicare Advantage plan offers Aetna Healthy Rewards—a simple, rewarding way to support your well-being. With this program, you don't need to activate an account; you simply take the recommended health care actions and then report them to Aetna.

How It Works

Complete Your Health Care Activities:

Whether it's scheduling an annual Healthy Home Visit, completing a wellness exam, or getting essential screenings and vaccinations, every action you take contributes to your health.

Report Your Activity:

Once you've completed a health care activity, call Aetna at (855) 648-0391 (TTY: 711) or visit CT.AetnaMedicare.com to report that the action was taken. When reporting, you'll need to provide a few key details, such as the date of your visit and the clinic name.

Timely Reporting is Essential:

Make sure to report your activities by the end of the calendar year. Any reports received after December 31st will not qualify—January 1st, 2026, is too late.

Choose Your Giftcard:

Aetna offers gift cards to a variety of stores including CVS, TJ Maxx group, Home Depot, etc. Unfortunately, you will NOT be able to collect basic debit or Visa gift cards - that would violate Medicare guidelines.

Earn Rewards for Key Health Activities

- \$50: Schedule and complete an annual Healthy Home Visit.
- \$40: Complete an annual wellness visit or physical exam with your primary care physician.
- \$50: Get a preventative screening for depression, breast cancer, or colorectal cancer.
- \$10: Receive an eligible vaccine—options

include your annual flu shot, COVID-19 vaccine or booster, HEP-B vaccine, or pneumococcal vaccine.

- \$50: Complete your diabetes care plan by getting an A1C test, an annual eye exam, and a kidney evaluation.

Need Assistance?

For any questions or more information about the Aetna Healthy Rewards program, please call (855) 648-0391 (TTY: 711) during business hours (Monday to Friday, 8 AM to 9 PM ET) or visit CT.AetnaMedicare.com.

Participate in Aetna Healthy Rewards by taking proactive steps for your health and reporting them promptly. Enjoy the benefits of maintaining your well-being while earning rewards that make healthy living even more satisfying.

Does CSEA have your correct contact info on file?

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A
CONVERSATION
ON CT'S FISCAL ROADBLOCKS
WITH SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
MATT RITTER

A GHIAA and CT For All event to compel policy change on CT's path to passing a budget that invests in community needs.

We will be joined by members of the Hartford Legislative Delegation



APRIL 8, 2025 @ 6-7:30PM

- **IMMANUEL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**
- **10 WOODLAND STREET, HARTFORD**

This is a GHIAA event organized in collaboration with Immanuel Congregational Church, Asylum Hill Congregational Church, and CT For All.

ASL and Spanish Interpretation Provided

REGISTER BY CLICKING
HERE OR SCANNING
THE QR CODE



CSEA Members Speak Out:
Connecticut Needs Bold Investment & Tax Fairness

Two recent opinion pieces submitted by Council 400 retirees helping drive a critical conversation about Connecticut’s future—one that centers the voices of workers, retirees, and everyday residents who are too often left out of budget debates.

In the *Connecticut Mirror*, Bill Buhler published “Deficient Investment Holds Back CT’s Growth,” that outlines how Connecticut’s self-imposed fiscal constraints—particularly its so-called “fiscal guardrails”—are holding the state back. Rather than investing in schools, transportation, housing, and care infrastructure, Connecticut continues to aggressively pay down long-term pension liabilities, even while basic public services are stretched thin. The piece calls for an honest reckoning: our

current fiscal policy is neither sustainable nor equitable. Instead, the state must make real, intentional investments in the working people who power our economy and communities.

That call is echoed and expanded in a powerful companion piece in the *Connecticut Mirror* titled “Retirees Like Me Can’t Survive Another Handout for the Wealthiest.” In it Kay Warren speaks from lived experience about what’s at stake as federal lawmakers debate tax cuts and potential service reductions. The op-ed takes aim at the push to extend and expand the 2017 Trump tax cuts, which overwhelmingly benefited the ultra-wealthy and large corporations while threatening vital programs like Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

For Connecticut’s retirees, many of whom live on fixed incomes averaging less than \$44,400 a year, the consequences of more tax handouts to the rich are devastating. With the cost of living soaring, the piece argues forcefully that the wealthiest individuals and corporations must begin paying their fair share—especially in a state with some of the highest levels of income inequality in the country.

These two op-eds are part of a growing chorus calling on lawmakers to shift course. They reflect a shared understanding: Connecticut cannot cut its way to prosperity. It must invest in its people—and that begins with fair taxation and public budgets rooted in justice.

Council 400 Long-Term Care Insurance Survey Results

CSEA Council 400 Legislative Action Committee would like to thank the more than 1,700 members who responded to our long-term care insurance survey. Your input will help us advocate for legislative action to address the rising costs of long-term care insurance.

Key Survey Findings:

- The survey ran from Friday, March 19, to Wednesday, March

24. The margin of error is + or - 2%.

- A total of 1,718 members completed the survey.
- 28.5% of respondents have long-term care insurance—seven times the national average!
- Among those with long-term care insurance, 55.3% have a State Partnership plan.
- 72.6% of policyholders have experienced significant premium

increases.

- Nearly two-thirds say the cost is a major burden on their household budget.
- 73% are considering dropping coverage if premiums continue to rise.
- Most members without long-term care insurance have considered purchasing it, but cost remains the biggest deterrent.
- Among those who opted not to purchase long-term care

insurance due to cost, only 20% have an alternative plan for their long-term care needs.

- The primary reason members drop coverage is that it becomes too expensive.

Full results are available on our website at **CSEA-CT.com**.

Social Activities Committee Announces Upcoming Trip Schedule

Spring is just around the corner, and we’re excited to share our upcoming trip schedule with you. This year, we explored local baseball offerings because we felt that attending Yankee or Red Sox games would be too expensive. For those games, round-trip bus transportation plus a ticket would cost around \$200–\$300 per ticket—excluding food or drinks. Instead, we looked into more affordable local team options.

Below are our baseball trip options:

1. Yard Goats – Labor Union Night (August 30)

- Tickets: Approximately \$32 each
- Seating: Along the 3rd base line
- Transportation: Arrange your own ride
- Requirement: We need at least 25 confirmed participants before purchasing tickets (tickets are non-refundable)
- How to Join: Email CSEATRIPS@gmail.com with “YARD GOATS” in the subject line

2. Norwich Sea Unicorns at Dodd Stadium

- Affordable ticket options with a group BBQ package (we’re working to secure guaranteed Home Plate seating)
- Friday games feature fireworks
- Sunday games include activities for children under 12 (e.g., running the bases, receiving a sponsored baseball)
- A discount is available when purchasing a min of 25 tickets
- Transportation is self-arranged
- Parking is \$5 per car
- How to Join: Email CSEATRIPS@gmail.com with “NORWICH” in the subject line

If you have any questions, please feel free to email us at CSEATRIPS@gmail.com.

Let’s make some great memories this spring!

Respectfully,
Social Activities Committee



SOCIAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE (SAC)

Review the latest trip offerings on our website or contact SAC at CSEATrips@gmail.com





Scan me



Attacks on Workers Heat Up in the Legislative Session

continue from page 1
the Committee. “That means I may only have 5 to 7 years of retirement to enjoy with my family—if I’m lucky.”

Pearson’s testimony echoed data presented in a recent *CT Mirror* article, which noted that correctional officers routinely work mandatory overtime due to chronic staffing shortages, with some logging up to 60–70 hours a week. The overtime, he emphasized, is not optional—and it’s vital to the functioning of Connecticut’s prison system.

“Let me stress this: the overtime we work in hazardous duty positions is not voluntary,” he said. “Due to minimal staffing regulations, we cannot abandon our posts. Every hour of overtime, every double shift, takes a toll on our health and our lives.”

Union members also pointed out that SB 25 would make recruitment and retention even more difficult, particularly in agencies like the Department of Correction, where the

workforce is already stretched dangerously thin.

Pearson made clear that this bill isn’t just about numbers on a page—it’s about families, dignity, and justice for public service workers who sacrifice every day.

“My wife has stood by me through it all... and my children—my 13-year-old son and my 9-year-old daughter—have sacrificed alongside me, missing out on birthdays, holidays, and special moments because of my commitment to this job.”

At the heart of Pearson’s argument was the defense of collective bargaining rights, a point echoed by several other union members in their testimony. The inclusion of overtime in pension calculations was not granted arbitrarily; it was negotiated, agreed upon, and earned.

“We deserve more than just a suit in Hartford dictating our pension plans—a pension we fought for,” Pearson said. “If we continue to strip away the

benefits that were promised to us... who will want to take on this hazardous role?”

Union leaders have pledged to keep organizing and speaking out, making sure lawmakers understand the real-life consequences of breaking promises to Connecticut’s public workforce.

But this bill is just one of many recent attacks on state workers. The only way to stop them is by standing together—united, vocal, and ready to fight for the respect and security every public worker deserves.



Michael Pearson Speaks to NBC Connecticut about his experience with overtime as a Lieutenant with the Department of Corrections.

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