



# CSEA NEWS

## The Voice of Connecticut's Public Service Employees & Retirees

September, 2024

CSEA SEIU Local 2001

VOL. 57, NO. 9

### Fiscal Guardrails or Fiscal Straitjacket?

*New polling shows 63% of likely voters disapprove of Lamont's fiscal policies*

Recent polling data has revealed a growing unpopularity surrounding Connecticut's fiscal guardrails—policies that have become a significant point of contention among residents. But what exactly are these "guardrails," and why are they causing such a stir?

In simple terms, the fiscal guardrails are a set of rules implemented by Connecticut's state government to control how much money can be spent and saved each year, while stripping away the majority vote from democratically-elected legislators to replace it with a 3/5th majority requirement. They were introduced as a way to ensure that the state doesn't overspend during good economic times and that it saves money to cushion the blow during downturns,

but the reality of these policies is far from achieving this goal. These rules include a spending cap, which limits how much the state can increase its budget each year, and a requirement to deposit a portion of any budget surplus into the state's rainy day fund, rather than spending it on new or existing programs. It also includes a volatility cap, which has been widely covered by the press for its consistent siphoning off of billions of dollars every year from critical programs.


At first glance, these guardrails might seem like a responsible way to manage the state's finances. However, they have increasingly come under fire for being far too rigid and out of touch with the needs of Connecticut's residents. According to the recent poll, 63% of likely voters believe that these guardrails are preventing necessary investments in critical areas like education, healthcare, and infrastructure.

One of the key reasons for their unpopularity is that these rules restrict the state's ability to respond flexibly to immediate needs. For example, even if the state has a surplus of funds, the guardrails require that nearly all of this money be hoarded rather than invested on improving public services or addressing urgent community issues. This can feel particularly frustrating to residents who see their taxes go up while services they rely on—like schools, healthcare, and public safety—continue to struggle with underfunding.

Additionally, the guardrails disproportionately affect low-income communities and exacerbate existing inequalities. In fact, it has solidified the inequitable spending habits present in 1991, only furthering Connecticut's status as the state with some of the worst race and class inequities. When the state is forced to hold back on spending, the cuts often hit social programs and public services the hardest—areas that provide vital support to

*continue onto page 4*

# CHILD CARE COUNCIL ELECTION



## CHECK YOUR EMAIL FOR FURTHER INFORMATION!

### Council 400 Annual Picnic

Every August the Council 400 retirees get together for their annual picnic with great food, fun games and even better company. This year we were joined by elected officials from across

the state, including Senator Richard Blumenthal, Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz, Attorney General William Tong, Comptroller Sean Scanlon, State Senator Cathy Osten and State Senate candidate Mary Garrett who took the time to meet

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

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CSEA, 760 CAPITOL AVE., HARTFORD, CT 06106

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# Meetings And News

**MEETING DATES**

**The September Delegates Meeting will be held as a hybrid meeting on Thursday, September 19th at 10am at the CSEA Union Hall and via Zoom**

Council 400 Virtual Meeting  
Monday, September 16th - 4pm  
Guest Speaker: Mairead Painter  
State of Connecticut Ombudsman  
Zoom Meeting ID: 838 6801 8842

Chapter 401 (Hartford area)  
Thursday, September 5th - 1pm  
Guest Speaker: Cigna Dental Rep  
CSEA Union Hall & via Zoom  
760 Capitol Ave., Hartford  
Zoom Meeting ID: 836 1727 7918  
Patrice Peterson (860) 416-0306

Chapter 402 (Danbury area)  
Wed., September 11th - 12pm  
Guest Speaker: Cigna Dental Rep  
United Methodist Church  
5 Clapboard Ridge Rd., Danbury  
Linda Albanese (860) 354-6965

Chapter 403 (Norwich area)  
Tues., September 10th - 1:30pm  
Speaker: Aetna Representative  
Rose City Senior Center  
8 Mahan Drive, Norwich  
Carol Burgess (860) 859-3641

Chapter 404 (Waterbury area)  
Tuesday, September 10th - 10am  
Guest Speaker: Linda Lowe from Silver Sneakers

Trinity Orthodox Church  
937 Chase Parkway, Waterbury  
Tina Franco (203) 721-4382

Chapter 405 (New Haven area)  
Thursday, Sept. 12th - 10:30am  
Speaker: CSEA Political Director, Danny Medress or CSEA Council 400 Organizer, Kevin Sullivan  
Hamden Gov't Center Building  
2750 Dixwell Ave., Hamden  
Sue Pierson (203) 376-7207

Chapter 406 (Middletown area)  
Tuesday, September 10th - 1pm  
Guest Speaker: CSEA Council 400 Organizer, Kevin Sullivan  
American Legion Post 75  
58 Bernie O'Rourke Dr. Middletown, CT  
Wayne Duffy (203) 379-7687

Chapter 407 (Bridgeport area)  
Wed., September 18th - 12:30pm  
St. Josephs of Stratford National Catholic Church  
1300 Stratford Rd., Stratford  
Zoom meeting ID: 872 4952 3823  
Zoom Passcode: 000891  
Liz Anderson (203) 676-0659

Chapter 408 (Willimantic area)  
Wed., September 11th, 11:30am  
Guest: State Senator, Mae Flexer  
Note: Meeting Location Change for September ONLY  
Mansfield Community Center  
10 S Eagleville Rd, Storrs, CT  
Doug Racicot (860) 234-2537

Chapter 409 (CSU-AAUP)  
Friday, August 16 - 10am  
CSEA Union Hall & via Zoom  
760 Capitol Ave., Hartford  
Zoom ID: 868 8922 7158  
Dave Walsh (860) 684-4773

Chapter 410 (Windsor area)  
Monday, September 9th - 1pm  
Speaker: Patrice Peterson; SEIU Union Forever Workgroup  
Suffield Senior Center  
145 Bridge St., Suffield  
Amelia Smith (860) 687-1848

Chapter 411 (Rocky Hill area)  
Thursday, September 19th  
12:30pm Social - 1pm Meeting  
CSEA Union Hall  
760 Capitol Ave., Hartford  
Sebastian Puglisi (860) 529-8336

Chapter 412 (Putnam area)  
Tues., September 17th 1:30pm  
Speaker: Aetna Representative  
Putnam Town Hall  
200 School Street, Putnam  
Don Gladding (860) 933-9998

Chapter 414 (Torrington area)  
Monday, September 16th - 10am  
Guest Speaker: Cigna Dental Rep  
Cooperative Service Ext. Bldg  
843 University Dr, Torrington  
Kathryn Doan (860) 324-8300

Chapter 415 (Manchester area)  
Monday, June 24th - 1pm  
Speaker: American Red Cross  
Manchester Elks Lodge  
30 Bissell St., Manchester  
Stu Clark (860) 205-0657

Chapter 416 (New London area)  
Tuesday, September 10th - Social: 12pm & Meeting: 1pm  
Guest Speaker: Ed Lowe, Estate Planning (wills & trusts)  
Groton Public Library  
52 Newtown Rd., Groton  
John Knaff (860) 857-4244

Chapter 417 (Plainville area)  
Wed., September 11th - 1pm  
Speaker: Aetna Representative  
Plainville Public Library  
56 East Main St., Plainville  
Mark Kirschner (860) 882-2717

Chapter 418 (Community College Retirees)  
Tuesday, September 17th - 11am  
Guest Speaker: Maureen McIntyre, Executive Director at North Central Area Agency on Aging  
Four C's Union Hall  
907 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford  
Colleen Richard (860) 202-4128

Chapter 421 - Daytona, FL  
Friday, October 25, 2024  
Louie's Pizza House  
1347 Beville Road, Daytona Beach, FL 32119  
Socializing begins at 11:30am  
Lunch at 12pm  
Cost: A fixed fee of \$10.95 plus tax and tip per person  
This will cover an all-you-can-eat pizza buffet, which includes Greek Salad and Garlic Knots.  
Please RSVP by October 22nd via text, email, or phone call.  
RSVP to: Ruth Finizio  
860-680-1860  
ruthfinizio@gmail.com

Chapter 422 - Ocala, FL  
Date: October 26, 2024  
Time: 1:30pm to 5:30pm  
Cross Florida Greenway  
Baseline Road Trailhead  
4255 SE 58th Street  
Ocala, FL 34480  
Food: hot dogs, hamburgers, various salads, and fixings.  
Price: \$7.00 for members  
\$10.00 for non-members  
Please RSVP by October 5th.  
Checks payable to: CSEA Chapter 422  
Send checks to: Hilda M. Spotts  
513 Fairways Cr., Unit A  
Ocala, FL 34472  
John Veray (386) 871-0573

## 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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Certain restrictions apply. Cannot be applied toward existing CSE auto loans. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Rate is subject to change at any time.

### Visit Our Website: [www.CSECreditUnion.com](http://www.CSECreditUnion.com)

Find all the essential information about the products and services we have to offer. You can even print a loan application online! Best of all, it's accessible from your personal computer 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

[www.CSECreditUnion.com](http://www.CSECreditUnion.com)

Closed Labor Day  
Monday, September 2nd

Dividend Rates - Second Quarter 2024

	Dividend Rate	Annual 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.

7 Full Service Offices To Serve You

<b>NORWICH</b> Uncas on Thames 401 West Thames St. Norwich, CT 06306 (860) 889-7378	<b>HARTFORD</b> 84 Wadsworth St. Hartford, CT 06106 (860) 522-5388 (Savings) (860) 522-7147 (Loans)	<b>NEW HAVEN</b> 1666 Litchfield Turnpike Woodbridge, CT 06525 (203) 397-2949
<b>MIDDLETOWN</b> 15 Ward Street Middletown, CT 06457 (860) 347-0479	<b>STORRS</b> 1244 Storrs Rd. Storrs, CT 06268 (860) 429-9306	<b>SOUTHBURY</b> Southbury Training School P.O. Box 644 Southbury, CT 06488 (203) 267-7610
		<b>NEWINGTON</b> 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.
- Adorno, Gregorio, Maintenance  
Alberghini, John, Comm College  
Baker, John, Social Services  
Balog, Michael, Maintenance  
Barker, Clement, Healthcare  
Bourque, Anna, Admin Clerical  
Bradley, William, Corrections  
Braun, Rose-Marie, Healthcare  
Carr-Mcmanus, Catherine, Social Services  
Carroll, Louise, Healthcare  
Clark, Dana, University Faculty  
Comerford, Eugene, Engineer, Scien, Tech  
Duran, Allan, Managerial  
Falsey, Charles, Admin and Residual  
Flower, William, Managerial  
Franco, John, Maintenance  
Fratarcangelo, Betty, Judicial  
Geigner, Edward, Maintenance  
Gilbert, Dianna, Admin and Residual  
Gordes, Joel, Managerial  
Hearn, Salvadora, Social Services  
Henley, Gregory, Maintenance  
King, Virginia, Comm College  
Lavin, Marjorie, Healthcare  
Miller, Lilly, Judicial  
Montero, George, Corrections  
Morasco, James, Healthcare  
Obar, Carolyn, Healthcare  
Oconnor, Rita, Confidential  
Paluch, Fred, State Police  
Pearson, Frank, Vocation Teacher  
Peraro, Thomas, Judicial  
Piri, Benjamin, Corrections  
Plante, Louis, Engineer, Scien, Tech  
Putnam, Carley, Healthcare  
Quebec, Marilyn, Elected/Appointed  
Richardson, Antoinette, Elected/Appointed  
Riendeau, Wayne, Healthcare  
Rutherford, Mamie, Healthcare  
Sailor, Raymond, Healthcare  
Sciarra, Helen, Healthcare  
Simpson, Terry, Maintenance  
Snow, Howard, Corrections  
Strydonk, Mimi, Admin Clerical  
Susla, Mary, Admin Clerical  
Tryon, Daniel, Admin Clerical

Vargas, Jose, Maintenance  
Veile, Thomas, Vocation Teacher  
Verba, Theodore, Admin and Residual  
Wells, Kentwood, UConn  
Whitney, Warren, Protective Services  
Witherspoon, Marie, UConn  
Wray, Ronald, Corrections  
Zawadski, Gilbert, Judicial

CSEA NEWS  
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Local 2001, Service Employees International Union, CTW, CLC

- Travis Woodward .....President
- Beverly Lee .....Secretary/Treasurer
- David Glidden .....Executive Director
- Drew E. Stoner .....Communication Director
- Jason P. Webster .....Graphic/ Technical Assistance

INSERTION DEADLINE: 1st of prior month.

MAILING ADDRESS: CSEA/SEIU Local 2001, 760 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106;  
PHONES: (860) 951-6614, toll-free: (800) 894-9479, FAX: (860) 951-3526; INTERNET:  
[www.csea-ct.com](http://www.csea-ct.com).

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Fiscal Guardrails or Fiscal Straitjacket?

continued from page 1 those who are already struggling.

The poll indicates a growing awareness and dissatisfaction with these policies, as more residents question whether the guardrails are truly serving the best interests of the state.

With the next legislative session on the horizon, there is increasing pressure on lawmakers to revisit and potentially revise these fiscal policies to better align

with the needs and priorities of Connecticut's communities.

As the debate over the fiscal guardrails heats up, it's clear that many Connecticut residents want to see a more balanced approach—one that still promotes fiscal responsibility but also allows for the flexibility to invest in the well-being of the state's people and infrastructure. The challenge now lies in finding that balance and ensuring that

the policies in place truly reflect the values and needs of Connecticut's residents.



Central Connecticut State University  
Student Center ■ Alumni Hall  
105 Ella Grasso Blvd, New Britain, CT

Biennial Convention  
Friday, October 25, 2024

The **83rd Biennial Convention of the Connecticut State Employees Association, SEIU Local 2001** will convene on **Friday, October 25, 2024** at the Central Connecticut State University, Student Center.

SAVE The Date!


Registration will open at 8:00 am. The convention will convene promptly at 9:00 am.

- Elect President and Secretary/Treasurer
- Vote on any Constitutional Amendments
- Guest Speakers

CSEA Chapters and Councils should be conducting their elections in the coming months. Please contact your staff representative at (860) 951-6614 for information about chapter/council officer and delegate elections.

**The Local 2001 main office must receive the results of your chapter elections not later than Friday, September 30th** in order to properly register and furnish credentials for elected delegates. Only elected delegates and elected alternate delegates are eligible to attend.

Please mark  
Friday, October 25th on  
your calendars.  
We look forward to seeing you on  
Friday, October 25th!





# Council 400 Annual Picnic



continued from page 1  
retirees and talk about the issues most important to them.  
This year's picnic also included a celebratory birthday cake for Social Security's 89th birthday, with members singing happy birthday before cutting the cake. Senator Blumenthal also honored several CSEA members with citations for their long-standing dedication to the fight for fair and secure retirement. Those honored

included Bette Marafino, Win Heimer, Amelia Smith and Michael Barry for their work to protect Social Security.



TOP: Lt. Governor Bysiewicz addresses the crowd.  
MIDDLE: Senator Blumenthal talks to a member before dessert.  
BOTTOM: Comptroller Scanlon and Senator Blumenthal visit a table of activists during lunch.

## SEIU STATE COUNCIL CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH 11:00AM**  
**32BJ OFFICE- 885 WETHERSFIELD AVE., HARTFORD**  
Join your union family for a day of political action to make sure our voices are heard!

## Good Works Thanks For Giving Drive Collecting Donations

The Good Works Committee is already thinking about the next event, which is the CSEA Thanks For Giving Drive (formerly the Turkey Drive).  
The holidays can be a difficult time for many, and the Good Works Committee has a tradition for providing for those in need at Thanksgiving for decades. Please consider making a donation to this worthy cause, it is never too early to be thinking about helping members in need during the holidays.  
Checks can be made out to CSEA Good Works and send to CSEA, 760 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT 06106, Attention Good Works.  
Thank you for your generosity.



## Council 400 Quarterly Virtual Meeting

Monday, September 16th - 4pm  
**Guest Speaker: Mairead Painter**  
**State of Connecticut Ombudsman**  
Sign on to Zoom  
Enter Meeting ID:  
**838 6801 8842**  
KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR EMAIL - MORE INFORMATION WILL BE SENT SOON



Hearst Media Union Drive Needs Our Help  
Organized FIRED for Union Work

Connecticut's journalism landscape is facing a critical threat, not only from the challenges of a rapidly evolving media environment but also from direct union-busting activities. A recent and alarming example involves the Hearst CT Media Group, which unjustly terminated journalist Adrian Szkolar and has refused to recognize the Connecticut News Guild. This action is part of a broader effort to undermine the rights of journalists to organize, advocate for fair treatment, and maintain the integrity of their work.

Journalists are essential to our democracy. They keep the public informed, hold those in power accountable, and bring critical issues to light. However, when their jobs are jeopardized by unfair practices, the quality of the news we rely on is also at risk. This is especially concerning in Connecticut, where the journalism community is already

being decimated, leaving fewer independent voices to speak truth to power.

To combat this, we must support our local journalists in their fight for fair treatment. The Connecticut News Guild has launched an Action Network campaign to demand that Hearst CT Media Group reinstate Adrian and recognize the Guild. This is not just about one journalist or one company; it's about standing up for the rights of all journalists to organize and be treated with the respect and dignity they deserve.

We urge everyone who values independent, unbiased journalism to participate in this campaign. By sending a message through the Action Network, you can help ensure that our journalists are adequately paid, respected, and protected from unfair practices. Our democracy depends on a strong, vibrant press, and we all have a role to play in defending it. Please take action

today to support Connecticut's journalists and the future of our local news.



Staffing Up: A Better Connecticut Institute  
Research Associate Posting

Summary:

ABCI, a non-profit based in Connecticut, provides research and strategic communication about the connection between legislation and public policy and the real-world struggles for justice of Connecticut's working families and systemically marginalized communities. ABCI is seeking a Research Associate (RA) to aid in research and the development of academic papers over the course the next few months.

Requirements:

This position requires experience conducting thorough, data-driven academic research on topics related to public policy, Labor policy, or other related fields. This position also requires experience writing academic papers supported by data.

Position Responsibilities:

The RA will work closely with the ABCI Content Committee who will assign research projects to the RA and monitor the progress of each assignment. Responsibilities will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Receive Assignments from ABCI Content Committee
- Work 10-15 hours a week on RA assignments (potential for hours to expand at discretion of RA and Content Committee based on availability of RA)
- Provide weekly reports to content committee on progress of assignments
- This work will include but not be limited to studying disparities in income and wealth, access to good schools, access to good jobs, availability of good public services - on the horizon.

Compensation:

While there is no requirement that applicants have a Bachelor's degree, there is a difference in pay between current students and graduates.  
Currently Enrolled in 2 or 4 year program - \$20/Hour  
BA or Higher Degree - \$25/Hour

To Apply:

Please submit your resume, a research paper you wrote, a list of three references, and a cover letter stating your interest in the position to Corey Geisman at coreygeismanseiu@gmail.com. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until the position is filled.

We are saddened to pass the news that Zoe Leibowitz, longtime active member of Chapter 408 passed away on July 29th at the age of 89. Zoe was a leader in her chapter and a delegate to the council, and was the chair of the Audit Committee for many years. Her service to her chapter and council were greatly appreciated and she will be sorely missed.



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF  
ZOE LEIBOWITZ  
DECEMBER 21, 1934 -  
JULY 29, 2024

Text "CSEA" to  
787753  
to get important updates  
from our union!

# K-12 Public School Parents: Join the Fight to Fix Funding

## Back to School Campaign Ramps Up

Connecticut's K-12 public schools are facing an funding crisis this year and the threat of funding issues in subsequent yeras due to the unnecessarily constricting fiscal guardrails, that threatens the quality of education for students across the state.The lack of adequate funding has led to larger class sizes, reduced support services, and a strain on the resources that educators and staff rely on to provide a safe and effective learning environment.This situation is particularly challenging for our most vulnerable students, who are at risk of falling further behind without the necessary support.

In this critical time, it is more important than ever for CSEA paraeducators, tutors, bus drivers, and monitors to join forces with parents to advocate for the resources our children need. By working together, we can amplify

our voices and push for meaningful changes that will benefit students and the communities they live in. Our partnership can help ensure that every student has access to a high-quality education, regardless of their background or the district they live in.

As we prepare for the back-to-school season and look ahead to the 2025 legislative session, CSEA is taking proactive steps to address this funding crisis.We are actively collecting names of those interested in learning more about how they can get involved in our efforts to secure better funding and support for our schools. Scan the QR code to join this list.This is a crucial moment to make our voices heard and to demand that our state’s leaders prioritize the needs of our students and educators. Together, we can advocate for the future of public education in Connecticut, ensuring that

every child has the opportunity to succeed.



**Does CSEA  
have your  
“correct  
contact  
info on file?  
Update your  
info by  
scanning the  
QR code.**

A square QR code with a black and white pixelated pattern, framed by a thin yellow border.

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CSEA-CT.com

# THE FREEDOM FOUNDATION IS HARVESTING YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION

They've reached out to your boss to get your personal & work email, phone number - even your home address. They don't respect your right to privacy.

Why? Because they'll stop at nothing to take your pension, healthcare & pay.

But we stand in their way.

A stylized fingerprint icon with a grid pattern over it.

UNION  
YES ☒

The Freedom Foundation logo, featuring a stylized human figure made of dots and a globe.

Your Fellow  
Union Member



# Solidarity Season

## A Spotlight on the Fight for Worker Safety and Rights

As the complexities of the modern workplace continue to evolve, unions across the country are steadfast in defending the rights, safety, and dignity of workers. This month's "Solidarity Season" is marked by significant events that underscore the ongoing struggle for a fair and just work environment. From congressional investigations to strikes and rallies, the labor movement is proving that collective action is more crucial than ever.

### Omni New Haven Hotel Workers Rally for a Fair Contract

Right here in New Haven, Connecticut, workers at the Omni New Haven Hotel have taken to the streets, marching and rallying to demand a new contract. These workers, many of whom have been on the front lines during the pandemic, are now fighting for fair wages, better working conditions, and job security. Their August rally was a clear statement that they will not be overlooked or undervalued by their employer.

### House Subcommittee Raises Concerns Over OSHA's Rulemaking and Enforcement

On July 24, the House Education & Workforce Subcommittee on Workforce Protections held a hearing titled, "Safeguarding Workers and Employers from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Overreach and Skewed Priorities." This hearing addressed concerns about OSHA's recent rulemaking efforts, particularly the heat injury and illness standards

and walkaround rules, as well as its perceived inaction in areas where workers desperately need protection, such as the tree care industry.

The hearing highlighted the ongoing debate over OSHA's role in balancing worker safety with business operations. While some lawmakers argue that OSHA's new rules are overly burdensome, others believe the agency has not done enough to protect workers in high-risk industries. The labor movement must remain vigilant in this debate, ensuring that worker safety remains the top priority in any regulatory discussions. OSHA's mission is to safeguard workers, and it is crucial that its policies reflect this, even amid opposition.

### AT&T Workers Strike Over Safety Concerns

The fight for worker safety is not confined to congressional hearings. On the ground, workers are taking direct action to demand safer working conditions. Communications Workers of America (CWA) members at AT&T have been striking for several days at the time of this writing, raising serious concerns about workplace safety. They have highlighted the dangerous conditions that workers face daily and are demanding that the company address these issues immediately.

AT&T workers are not just fighting for themselves; they are setting a standard for workplace safety that all companies should follow. Their actions underscore the importance of unions in holding employers accountable and

ensuring that safety is never sacrificed for profit. **SAG-AFTRA Strikes Back Against AI and Injustice in the Entertainment Industry**

In the entertainment industry, members of the Screen Actors Guild – American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) have launched another strike. This strike, which includes video game performers, centers around concerns over the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and its potential impact on job security and fair compensation for performers. Additionally, the union is demanding better wages and working conditions, highlighting growing inequality in the industry.

The SAG-AFTRA strike is significant not only for the entertainment industry but for all workers who are facing the encroachment of AI in their fields. It raises crucial questions about the future of work and the role that unions will play in protecting workers from technological displacement. It is a call to action for all of us to consider how we can ensure that advancements in technology benefit workers rather than exploit them.

As we continue to advocate for safer workplaces, fair contracts, and protections against technological threats, we must draw strength from the collective efforts of unions and workers everywhere. The labor movement remains a force for positive change, and together, we can build a future where all workers are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve.

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<sup>†</sup>Home insurance has limited availability in MA and is not part of Farmers GroupSelect benefit offering in FL.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Not available in MA.

<sup>†</sup>Based on the average nationwide discount available in 2020 through the Farmers GroupSelect<sup>SM</sup> program for eligible individuals. In some instances discount is higher.

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