



Capitol Monitor

A Report on Activity at the State Capitol

Vol. 7, Issue 3 | Jan. 23, 2017

Attacks aplenty on unions, state workers:

Hello Wisconsin! A Right to Work bill threatened to come up for a public hearing in the Labor and Public Employees Committee late last week. Quick action by CSU-AAUP members and other union allies who called on committee members and leadership to protest the legislation helped quash this current anti-worker and anti-union legislation. Make no mistake, this will not be the last time this kind of legislation will be making an appearance. Union members will need to be vigilant and active throughout this session to keep these bad bills from seeing the light of day.

Here is a breakdown of the negative bills submitted so far*:

- **Bills reducing revenue:**
 - 42 bills eliminating the hospital tax or ambulatory surgical center tax
 - 17 bills eliminating the business entity tax
 - 22 bills eliminating or reducing the estate tax
 - 4 bills reducing or eliminating the gift tax
 - 22 bills reducing or eliminating the estate tax
 - 9 bills exempting pension income from income tax
 - 47 bills exempting Social Security income from income tax
 - 41 bills creating or expanding some kind of tax credit
- **Bills attacking unions:**
 - 3 Right to Work bills
 - 18 bills requiring votes on state employee collective bargaining agreements
 - 6 bills changing binding arbitration rules
 - 61 bills making changes to state employee pensions (removing pensions from collective bargaining)
 - 12 bills privatizing public services
 - 18 bills changing collective bargaining rules

But there are some good bills out there! Rep. Matt Lesser introduced a bill that would allow for free in-state tuition for all Connecticut residents attending a public college or university. Other bills call for paid family and medical leave and raising the minimum wage to \$15/hour. [Click here to sign up for free bill tracking alerts.](#)

*AFL-CIO

Stand up for Higher Ed! Join us in the Day of Action Thursday:

In this time of [attacks on professors](#), continued [cuts to public education](#) and the influence of special interests making their way onto [college campuses](#), the three public higher education unions in Connecticut are joining forces this Thursday, Jan. 26, at the state capitol to defend public higher education.

We will call on lawmakers to reinvest in the young people of Connecticut who are our state's future and support a public higher education system that is accessible, affordable and operates in the spirit of excellence. **Don your red CSU-AAUP shirt and join us for all or part of the day** to hear from expert panelists and students, lobby your legislators, and see a special screening of [Starving the Beast](#), a new documentary by Steve Mims on the chronic defunding and corporatization of public higher education in our country.

Free buses will take you and your students to Hartford. Bus schedules have been emailed to members. [Click here for the day's agenda.](#) [Click here for directions and parking information at the Capitol.](#)

Register via email by Jan. 24 to [Liz Newberg](#).

Important Dates:

Important Appropriations Committee deadlines for the 2017 Legislative Session:

- **Jan. 24:** 10 a.m. Room 2E Public Hearing and Committee Meeting on the SEBAC Pension Agreement
- **Feb. 8:** Governor's Budget Address
- **Feb. 9:** Office of Policy and Management briefing on the Governor's Proposed Budget.
- **Feb. 14-Feb.24:** Agency Budget Presentations and Public Hearings on the Governor's Proposed Budget.
- **Feb. 15:** Committee Bill and Raised Bill Deadlines