



Capitol Monitor

A Report on Activity at the State Capitol

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CSU-AAUP Testifies at Higher Ed and Labor Hearings:

With more than 100 bills introduced this legislative session that are anti-union and anti-state worker, CSU-AAUP leaders and members are keeping busy defending everything from collective bargaining rights to retirement benefits. CSU-AAUP members joined thousands of other union members and students to testify at the Feb. 15 Appropriations Higher Education Committee Public Hearing and at the Feb. 21 Labor Committee Public Hearing. [Click here to read testimonies from the Appropriations Committee](#) hearing and [click here for testimony from the Labor Committee](#) hearing.

Appropriations testimony focused on the [Governor's budget](#) that would assume \$1.5 billion in state employee concessions and a \$25 million decrease to the CSCU system. In the Labor Committee, the top concern for faculty was [SB 596](#), which would bring the [Yeshiva decision](#) to Connecticut. [HB5552](#) faced a great deal of opposition as well. HB5552 seeks to prohibit retirement benefits, such as pensions, from being negotiated in collective bargaining. Click the following links for a list of bills that involve [higher education](#) and [collective bargaining](#).

CSU-AAUP and our lobbyists will continue to monitor the status of these most egregious bills. **Be prepared for more calls to action to defend public higher education and collective bargaining rights.**



CSU-AAUP President Elena Tapia testifying at the Labor Committee Public Hearing on Feb. 21.

Debt-free Higher Ed Bill:

As student debt rises to unbearable levels for many students, one Connecticut lawmaker is taking a page from New York state's playbook. New York's Governor Andrew Cuomo announced in January plans to [offer free tuition](#) at SUNY and CUNY.

In Connecticut, Rep. Matt Lesser, a Democrat serving Middletown, has introduced [HB 6162 An Act Concerning the Implementation of a Debt-Free Program For Students Attending Public Institutions of Higher Education](#). The Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee heard the bill Feb. 23 with two members of the public testifying in opposition, one expressing caution, and one in favor.

You can read the testimonies [here](#).

Save the Date! Lobby Day March 31:

CSU-AAUP is joining forces again with UConn-AAUP and the 4Cs on March 31 for our second lobby day of the 2017 legislative session. Please join us as we urge legislators to support public higher education. Our second lobby day will be 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and include a morning reception, during which we will hear from the three union presidents and the 4Cs lobbyist Robert Fernandez.

If you wish to attend, [click here to register by March 17](#). Please invite your students as well.

With the continued cuts to public higher education, it is imperative that we keep the conversation going and maintain a strong presence at the Capitol.

Remember, we are stronger together!



Higher Ed Hearing March 2:

The next Higher Education and Employee Advancement Public Hearing will be held March 2 at 12:30 p.m. at the Legislative Office Building (LOB). Please note, CSU-AAUP is not issuing any Calls to Action for any of the bills being heard March 2.

Bills on the March 2 agenda include:

1. [S.B. No. 870](#) (RAISED) AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION. (HED)
2. [S.B. No. 871](#) (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENDOWED CHAIR INVESTMENT FUND. (HED)
3. [S.B. No. 872](#) (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE FACULTY CONSULTING OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE. (HED)
4. [H.B. No. 7120](#) (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING POSTSECONDARY CAREER SCHOOLS. (HED)
5. [H.B. No. 7119](#) (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION RELATING TO TEACH-OUT PLANS AND ON-SITE REVIEW OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS. (HED)
6. [H.B. No. 7128](#) (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION STATUTES. (HED)
7. [H.B. No. 7053](#) AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING HIGHER EDUCATION. (HED)