



Capitol Monitor

A Report on Activity at the State Capitol

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O Danny Boy...Malloy Announces Layoffs:

Governor Malloy [announced on March 20](#) that his administration will begin notifying union leaders of contingency plans for layoffs. The governor said this action is being done now because of notice requirements in various collective bargaining agreements.

Up to 4,200 layoffs will happen if there is no success from the SEBAC exploratory talks. CSU-AAUP members are not at risk of layoffs presently.

Here's what you can do to help:

[Click here to contact your legislators](#) and tell them to stand up for public higher education and Connecticut's working and middle class families.

Tell them about the [new study done by our own CCSU economists and the Center for Public Policy and Social Research](#) that shows Connecticut not only has **the lowest Total Effective Business Tax Rate (TEBTR) in the region**, including New York and New Jersey, but also in the United States. Connecticut also has the **lowest business taxes per private sector worker in the region**, and the **lowest business taxes as a share of state and local taxes in the United States**. This report is also attached to this email and available for you to share widely.

A budget that works for everyone is possible!

While SEBAC leaders continue to explore ways that state workers can provide help in the state's fiscal challenges, the uncertainty of thousands of public service workers who serve Connecticut's families and communities are more proof of a rigged economy and a rigged tax system that protects only the very wealthy few. Layoffs and service cuts threaten public health and safety, our children's education, and our state's future. They only hurt the economy more and lead to more fiscal crises.

Faculty Speak Out:

[Click here to read an op-ed](#) in the **Hartford Courant** from **SCSU-AAUP President Julian Madison and SCSU-AAUP Council member Stephen Monroe Tomczak** on the damage anti-union legislation can wreak on a state.

[Click here to read an op-ed from AFL-CIO President](#) Lori Pelletier on how big business in Connecticut is getting a pretty good deal and should pay their fair share.

Education Unions Have A Dream:

CSU-AAUP will join fellow Connecticut education unions at a press conference April 26 at the Legislative Office Building to pledge support for [the institutional aid bills in the legislature](#) that would allow undocumented students to access institutional aid. The coalition of education unions are calling for legislators to pass HB 7000/ SB 17 so that all students can have equal access to higher education, regardless of immigration status.

"Research has shown that when a community's residents obtain higher education, those communities enjoy greater employment, higher incomes, lower crime rates, lower entitlement spending and lower disability rates," said Elena Tapia, CSU-AAUP president.

"Access to affordable and quality public higher education is a common good and a path to a more prosperous future not only students but also for Connecticut. This is why CSU-AAUP urges the Connecticut General Assembly to call the HB 7000 and SB 17 – both institutional aid bills – for a vote."

The state's undocumented students pay full in-state tuition which includes a set aside for institutional financial aid, yet they do not have access to this pool of funds. Additionally, they are not eligible for federal financial aid so these students in effect are subsidizing other students access to institutional financial aid.

Passing the institutional aid bill levels the playing field in part for Connecticut's hard working and driven Dreamers who want a college education and have the opportunity to give back to our state.

Study On CT Business Taxes Released by CCSU Faculty:

Commissioned by the Connecticut AFL-CIO, CCSU economists and the Center for Public Policy and Social Research released a study ["Opportunities for Growth: Business Tax Advantages, Economic Strengths, and Quality of Life Perceptions in Connecticut."](#)

The study found that Connecticut resident's quality of life is one of the highest and our tax rates are some of the lowest. This is in direct opposition to the narrative belched out ad nauseam by the Connecticut Business and Industry Association, which would have you believe our state is in the middle of the rust belt rather than a thriving part of New England.

According to the study:

- Connecticut has the lowest Total Effective Business Tax Rate in the United States (TEBTR is the ratio of combined state and local taxes paid, to private sector production of goods and services).
- Connecticut has the lowest ratio of business taxes per private sector worker in the region.
- Connecticut has the lowest ratio of business taxes to state and local taxes combined in the United States.
- Connecticut has the lowest Tax-Benefit Ratio in the region, and the nation's second lowest.
- Connecticut businesses are taxed \$0.80 for every \$1 of government services received, using a conservative assumption that only half of state education spending directly benefits the private sector.

[Click here to see a news story about the study's release.](#)

CSU-AAUP Supports Debt-Free College:

A bill making its way through the legislature would establish a task force to look at options for debt-free higher education.

CSU-AAUP issues a statement of support for [HB 6162 AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A DEBT-FREE HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM](#)

The statement was shared with legislators by our lobbying firm Gallo & Robinson.

[Click here to read the statement of support.](#)