



With the infection rate of COVID-19 and its variants continuing to increase daily, it appears we are in store for another entirely remote legislative session for 2022.

The following are the proposed items for the CEUI/MEUI 2022 legislative agenda:

Pass State Employee Contracts

All state employee collective bargaining agreements and binding arbitration awards must be approved by majority vote in both the State Senate and the State House of Representatives. We will lobby to ensure the passage of all expired collective bargaining agreements.

Hazard Pay for Essential Workers

We will lobby for the allocation of Connecticut ARPA funds to provide essential workers with hazard pay to recognize the risks they have taken to protect public health, serve our communities and keep our economy running during the COVID-19 pandemic.

SEBAC Legislative Proposals

- Require the commissioner of an agency to present a refill plan for vacant positions to the General Assembly, committees of cognizance, and OPM;
- Require that whenever a state hiring freeze is declared, there must also be a contracting freeze;
- Require OPM to approve refills if there is no budget deficit;
- Require continuous recruitment to be the default rule for all agencies' hiring processes;
- Fully fund and staff the Contracting Standards Board at levels which are necessary to carry out its statutory mission;

- Amend CSB statute to require agencies to perform cost benefit analyses and obtain CSB approval for types of work that have been contracted out in the past, in addition to contracts for work that has not been contracted out before;
- Require that for a contract to go into effect, the Attorney General must certify that it has been reviewed by the CSB and that it meets CSB statute standards. Otherwise, the contract is null and void;
- Require collective bargaining representatives be given information about any privatization contract proposal and to have the opportunity to propose in-house alternatives;
- Require any agency which seeks a privatization contract because there is insufficient internal capacity to perform the work submit a hiring plan to the General Assembly, committees of cognizance, and OPM;
- In cost benefit analysis for privatization contracts:
 - Require the calculation of contractor costs to include administration and monitoring costs and the use of public equipment and facilities.
 - Require the calculation of state costs to be based on the cost of a new state employee, and to consider the impact of federal funding or grants on the unfunded pension liability.
 - Require at least 20% savings (up from 10%), at least half of which must be from some price advantage from skill, efficiency, or innovation – not simply due to reduced labor costs;
- Expand the definition of “core governmental function” to include more types of workers in the public sector; and
- During the review of a proposed privatization contract, require the CSB to consider the impact on workers of color and women workers, rather than just minority and women vendors or contractors.

Recovery for All Legislative Proposals

We will work with our partners in the Recovery for All coalition to support legislation focused on creating a truly equitable state tax system, protecting funding for public services and jobs by rejecting privatization efforts, and establishing racial and economic justice.

Paraeducator Legislation from the School Paraeducator Advisory Council

Last session, CEUI members helped pass HB 6621 which included language directing the School Paraeducator Advisory Council to put together legislative recommendations regarding improving para career development, professional training, pay, and benefits. The Council formed a task force which is working on the recommendations which will be submitted to the Education Committee.

Indoor Air Quality

Last session, CEUI joined with a wide range of other unions and organizations to support a bill to improve indoor air quality in schools, SB 288. This bill made it out of the Education Committee, but did not make it any further. This was always an important piece of legislation, but especially so in the time of the COVID pandemic. This legislation also includes language that would ensure the continued pay for non-certified BOE/public employees should any of this lead to the closure of a building.