



Media Statement

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STATEMENT BY JUAN A. FIGUEROA ON THE RIGHT OF COMMISSIONED OFFICERS TO JOIN UNION

Today the state Supreme Court heard testimony regarding the right of commissioned officers in the Department of Public safety, to join the union, CSEA 2001. Those officers voted unanimously to join the union nearly four years ago--- a vote that has been upheld by the Superior Court and the National Labor Relations Board and supported by the State Attorney General. Given the unprecedented state budget deficits and the legal rulings supporting this vote, the Rell administration should find better ways to spend scarce tax payer dollars and instead, support these officers.

Workers across this country have fought for years to be able to have their voice heard on the job. Our commissioned officers should have the same rights. These commissioned officers are working on the fronts lines to protect our citizens. Their voice and their wishes should be respected by the state. Instead of paying high priced lawyers, the state should be supporting those whose job it is to look out for our public safety.

I have supported the right of workers to bargain for health care, pensions, fair wages, and better working conditions. In the case of the commissioned officers, it is both their legal right and it is also the right thing to do. Connecticut cannot afford to continuously be on our heels, wasting taxpayer money and fighting what is otherwise settled law. Our working men and women and their families deserve better.

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