



State of Connecticut

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March 1, 2016

Senator Martin Looney
President Pro Tempore
Legislative Office Building, Room 3300
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Representative Brendan Sharkey
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Legislative Office Building, Room 4100
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Dear President Looney and Speaker Sharkey:

The UConn Professional Employees Association contract currently awaiting legislative approval absolutely should be voted on by the legislature in full. The contract would otherwise automatically go into effect following the March 9 deadline for legislative action. It is important for a vote to be called so all lawmakers can weigh in on this proposed contract that will undoubtedly result in taxpayers and students paying more and more.

Connecticut is stuck in a troubling financial situation. Years of historic tax increases have damaged the economy and only led to larger and larger deficits in the state budget. I think we are finally at the tipping point where Democrats are beginning to see what Republicans have for so long – the trouble on the horizon is profound. At a time like this we are in no position to be guaranteeing years of 4.5% wage increases. And young people in our state are in no position to take on more burdens with higher tuition rates that will undoubtedly result from the proposed contract before us.

Republicans believe we should vote on every single contract before they go into effect and we need to start with this contract. We are an important part of our state's checks and balances and we have to meet that responsibility. Denying us a vote on this contract not only evades our responsibility, it would show a complete disconnect with the realities facing our state.

I would like to know what your intention is regarding the UConn contract. Will you call a vote? The March 9 deadline is fast approaching. Lawmakers need to know what direction you will be taking our state.

Sincerely,



Len Fasano
Senate Minority Leader