



**American Federation
of Labor and
Congress of Industrial
Organizations**

815 Black Lives Matter
Plaza NW
Washington, DC 20006
202-637-5000
aflcio.org

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

ELIZABETH H. SHULER
PRESIDENT

FREDRICK D. REDMOND
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Cecil Roberts
Matthew Loeb
Randi Weingarten
Baldemar Velásquez
Lee A. Saunders
Sean McGarvey
Stuart Appelbaum
Mark Dimondstein
Sara Nelson
Eric Dean
Gabrielle Carteris
Mark McManus
Elissa McBride
John Samuelson
Vonda McDaniel
Gwen Mills
Charles Wolkanech
Bonnie Castillo
Ernest A. Logan
James Slevin
John Costa
Tim Driscoll
Everett Kelley
Anthony Shelton
Edward A. Kelly
Evelyn DeJesus
Cheryl Eliano
Matthew S. Biggs
Roxanne Brown
Arthur Maratea
James A. Williams Jr.
Ben Valdepeña
Meghan Burke
Bernie Burnham
Frank Christensen
Roland Rexha
Jason Ambrosi
Kenneth Cooper
Brian Renfroe
Shawn Fain
Brent Booker
Michael Coleman
Claude Cummings Jr.
David Heindel
Margaret Mock
David McCall
Brian Bryant
Lloyd Howell
Nick Daniels
April Verrett
Rocío Sáenz
John Downey
Tyler Turner
Milton Jones

AFL-CIO

AMERICA'S UNIONS

August 22, 2025

The Honorable Ned Lamont
Governor of the State of Connecticut
State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Lamont:

Today in Hartford, I sat with workers, parents, students, and community leaders as part of the AFL-CIO's national *It's Better in a Union: Fighting for Freedom, Fairness, and Security* bus tour. We heard firsthand how Connecticut's working families are grappling with the Trump Administration's cruel and devastating federal cuts - paired with years of insufficient state funding.

The voices in that room weren't painting a hypothetical scenario. They were recounting raw and authentic stories from the front lines of the attack on public K-12 and higher education systems. They were teachers, university faculty, paraeducators, custodians, administrators, and cafeteria workers who are working with even less while being expected to bridge unprecedented gaps in funding and protections. They were parents fearing their children fall further behind while staffing, programs and supports scale back, all while struggling to afford after-school care. They were also community members who are pinned under the weight of unaffordability, watching local economies shutter from federal attacks and state complicity.

Their stories followed a similar theme though: **the system is breaking under the current policies and the burden is falling disproportionately on working families.**

You have said yourself that Connecticut's future depends on a strong, well-educated workforce. That future is now in jeopardy. The federal government is handing out \$4 trillion in tax cuts to ultra-wealthy individuals and the largest corporations - the same groups that have been profiting at an unprecedented rate since the pandemic.

States now have the opportunity - and an obligation - to capture those backwards federal tax cuts by increasing taxes on those same individuals and corporations - turning federal greed into state investment. Connecticut is surrounded by states doing just that. Massachusetts raised \$2.2 billion in one year alone with a modest 4% surcharge on millionaires—and the number of millionaires in the state actually increased.

Letter to Governor Lamont

August 22, 2025

Page two

And what about the potential impact on real families like those we heard from today? Every parent could watch their children thrive, every small business could rely on a robust workforce development pipeline, every community could access stable public services they need to move Connecticut in the right direction.

Governor Lamont, I know you have enjoyed strong labor support throughout your tenure, but recently you have become unrecognizable to our members. We applauded your historic tax cut for working families in your first term, the overdue increase in the minimum wage and the establishment of paid family and medical leave, but inaction now would not only erase that legacy. It would replace it with a new one: complicity in the largest effective tax hike on working families.

On behalf of the 12.5 million working people of the AFL-CIO - and the more than 250,000 here in Connecticut - I urge you to take immediate action, without delay, in a special legislative session.

We look forward to hearing positive reports from our affiliates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fredrick D. Redmond".

Fred Redmond
AFL-CIO, Secretary-Treasurer

FDR/JS/jg