



AFT Connecticut  
AFT, AFL-CIO

**For Release:** Monday, March 3, 2024

**Contact:** Matt O'Connor, AFT CT - 860/221-5696,  
[moconnor@aftct.org](mailto:moconnor@aftct.org)

## **Comments on Governor's Veto of Legislative Special Education Resources Package**

*AFT Connecticut Vice Presidents for PreK-12 Leslie Blatteau and Paraprofessionals and School-Related Personnel (PSRP) Shellye Davis made the following public remarks on Governor Ned Lamont's line-item veto of H.B. 7067:*

"The governor should have signed, not vetoed, the state legislature's recently passed special education funding package," said Blatteau. "Many of the regional and local school districts, where our colleagues teach and support students, are facing budget shortfalls this fiscal year. Now is not the time to take an axe to vital resources when so many districts are facing growing special education caseloads and struggling to meet students' needs."

"The emergency is now and our students with special needs need a lifeline this school year, not an anchor like the governor's veto," said Davis. "Cuts to federal education funding, being pushed by the new Congress and administration in the White House, threaten an even more dire future. State lawmakers offered real solutions that the governor should have embraced, not rejected," added Davis, who also serves as president of the Hartford Federation of Paraeducators, AFT Local 2221.

Blatteau added, "our General Assembly already did their homework; now the governor has given them an opportunity to earn some much-needed extra credit. They must come together to protect our kids by overriding this misguided veto," added Blatteau, who is also president of the New Haven Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 933.

###

*AFT Connecticut represents more than 34,000 hard-working people in PreK-12 education, healthcare, public service and higher education from nearly 100 local unions throughout the state. Visit [aftct.org](http://aftct.org) for more information and follow the labor federation on Facebook at [AFT Connecticut](https://www.facebook.com/AFTConnecticut), Instagram at [@aftconnecticut](https://www.instagram.com/aftconnecticut), X at [@AFTCT](https://twitter.com/AFTCT) and LinkedIn at [linkedin.com/company/aftct](https://www.linkedin.com/company/aftct).*

---

Healthcare  
Higher Education  
Public Employees  
PSRP  
Teachers

---

35 Marshall Road  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067  
860/257-9782  
Fax: 860/257-8214  
Toll Free: 888/398-3373  
[www.aftct.org](http://www.aftct.org)

---

Jan Hochadel  
PRESIDENT

John Brady, RN  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Shawn Brown  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

---

VICE PRESIDENTS  
Joan Andrews  
Paul Angelucci  
Stuart Beckford  
Leslie Blatteau  
Dennis Bogusky  
Denise Bouffard  
Shellye Davis  
Sherri Dayton, RN  
John DiSette  
Kathy Fischer  
Carol Gale  
Bill Garrity, RN  
Trent Harrison  
Heather Howlett  
Sue Humanick  
Kristen Malloy-Scanlon  
Lauren Mancini-Averitt  
Steve McKeever  
Walter O'Connor, RN  
Mike Reynolds  
Ally Sexton  
Janice Stauffer, RN  
Mary Symkowicz  
Louise Williams  
Mary Yordon