

# Labor and Public Employees Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No:** SB-269 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

**Title:** AN ACT CONCERNING WORKERS' RIGHTS.

**Vote Date:** 3/19/2026

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 2/24/2026

**File No.:**

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### SPONSORS OF BILL:

Labor & Public Employees Committee

### REASONS FOR BILL:

The reason for this bill is to study the rights of employees within the state, in order to potentially provide legislative recommendations.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None provided.

### NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

**Kathy Kennedy, State Representative:** Representative Kennedy supports the bill but recognizes that it is a placeholder bill. They write on behalf of their constituent Jes Kraus who despite many years of public service and being a veteran finds himself in a situation no family ever wants to be in. Mr. Kraus was diagnosed with stage 3B colorectal cancer at age 48 and underwent a prolonged course of radiation and surgery. However, during a routine CT scan it was found that his cancer was metastatic. No one should have to choose between their health and supporting their family while undergoing a terminal illness. They strongly encourage the committee to look at current legislation and see if there is a fix in current statutes as veterans should not be disadvantaged in this way.

**Jes Kraus, Connecticut State Employee:** Mr. Kraus testified and stated in addition to their service as a veteran they served as a municipal police officer for 6 years and Vermont State employee for 11 years. They are currently a Connecticut state employee but stated they are testifying in a personal capacity not as a state employee. In 2020 they were diagnosed with stage 3B colorectal cancer at age 48 and have undergone prolonged courses of

chemotherapy and surgery since then. In 2024 he learned that his cancer was metastatic and had spread. He has gone through 38 rounds of chemotherapy to date, and it is becoming harder and harder to keep working with each round. As the primary earner for his family, he needs to maintain his pay and benefits. SERS Tier IV requires ten years of full-time service to be eligible for disability retirement. Since he purchases four years of military service credit, he thought the requirement would be shortened to six years, but the retirement division will not count it. He believes purchases military service credit should count toward eligibility for disability retirement and fears he may not live long enough to complete the full time if it is not counted toward it. Mr. Kraus hopes the legislators will consider any veterans prior military service and take steps to allow for purchases military service credit to count for disability retirement.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None provided.

**Reported by: Lawrence Sanchez**

**Date: 3/27/2026**