

# Written Testimony from Dave Van Deusen on S.156 Binding Arbitration

**Senate Government Operations**  
**April 17, 2019**

Dear Committee Members,

I apologize I cannot be there in person but I asked Jill Charbonneau, President of the Vermont AFL-CIO to read this statement on my behalf.

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, (AFSCME) represents police in Newport, St Johnsbury, Fair Haven, and Manchester. We also represent Firefighters in Windsor, Ambulance workers in Colchester and Rutland, and Dispatchers in Burlington and Colchester. We support the binding arbitration bill for emergency workers. If, this bill will maintain the status quo for emergency workers in mixed Units. By mixed units I mean those where emergency workers are grouped within the same contract as non-emergency workers. For AFSCME, we have such mixed Units in Colchester, Fair Haven, Burlington, and Windsor. For these mixed units, we cannot allow these workers (typically snow plow drivers, etc.) to lose their fundamental right to strike. In such situations where a major impasse is reached in contract negotiations, and where the Union has taken the extraordinary step of voting to authorize a strike vote, the present system whereby the town/city would go before a judge to have a targeted injunction put in place just for emergency workers, should remain in place.

Please feel free to follow up with me on any additional questions.  
Thank you for your time.

David Van Deusen, Staff Representative  
AFSCME Council 93  
(802)522-5812