

TESTIMONY OF CATHERINE SCOTT

CITY COUNCIL - BILL NO. 100128 AND BILL NO. 080660

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

Good afternoon President Verna and members of City Council. My name is Catherine Scott and I am President of AFSCME District Council 47. I welcome the opportunity to testify today on the proposed amendment to Bill No. 100128 amending Chapter 20-600 of the Philadelphia Code entitled "Standards of Conduct and Ethics".

AFSCME District Council 47 has three local Unions with approximately 4,000 members affected by this proposed legislation. I would like to commend city Council for analyzing and acting on the recommendations of the Mayor's Task Force on Ethics and Campaign Finance Reform. I do have some concerns about the approach in the bill which classifies some employees as "less restricted" and some employees as "more restricted" in their ability to engage in off work political activity. I think it bears repeating that the members of AFSCME District Council 47 in Locals 2186 and 2187 are Civil Service employees who pass competitive civil service examinations and finish high enough on the civil service list to be hired. They successfully complete 6 month probationary periods. Many of them are members of professional associations in their career choice such as the National Association of Social Workers, hold certifications such as Certified Public Accountants or Social Workers or are licensed to practice their profession such as physicians, registered nurses and physician assistants to name a few. Our Union objects to including any of our members under Section 1, #4d.