



State of Connecticut
CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

October 17, 2023

Governor Ned Lamont
State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Representative Matt Ritter
300 Capitol Avenue
Room 4106
Hartford, CT 06106

Senator Bob Duff
300 Capitol Avenue
Room 3300
Hartford, CT 06106

Senator Martin M. Looney
300 Capitol Avenue
Room 3300
Hartford, CT 06106

Representative Jason Rojas
300 Capitol Avenue
Room 4100
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Lamont and Legislative Leaders,

We are writing to express our outrage at recent comments made by SEIU Connecticut State Council Executive Director Kooper Caraway, whose disgraceful and very public remarks in support of the terrorist organization Hamas should disqualify him from representing thousands of state workers.

We urge you to join us and call for SEIU Connecticut State Council to remove Mr. Caraway from his post immediately, as his pernicious, anti-Semitic comments, as displayed in video and detailed by the *Wall Street Journal* ('*Our Enemies Are the CEOs...Our Comrades Are in Gaza*', 10-15-23), have compromised his ability to serve as a representative for state employees who ask your administration and the General Assembly to negotiate with them and consider their many legislative concerns.

Mr. Caraway's branding of murderous terrorists Hamas as "our comrades" is offensive to us, our Jewish friends and families, and the House & Senate Republican caucuses. We are certain many of Connecticut's hard working state employees feel similarly. Aside from the organization's recent slaughter of innocent, defenseless Israeli citizens, Hamas' abhorrent views and treatment of women and the LGBTQ+ community are not only indefensible, they are also at odds with messages of tolerance and inclusivity.

Additionally, through his careless comments recklessly denouncing capitalism and showing support for the brutal Castro regime, Mr. Caraway has cast a dark shadow over the State of Connecticut as it works to grow its economy—an effort that requires a deep and positive partnership with the private sector. As you well know, business leaders look for stability when deciding where to grow roots, and Mr. Caraway's comments—

presumably on behalf of the organization that represents state employees—smacks of radical ideology that sows the type of division business leaders avoid. Simply put, Mr. Caraway's inflammatory remarks will undermine the economic development efforts of this state.

This is an important moment for us, as elected leaders and for SEIU in Connecticut. Failure to immediately remove Mr. Caraway from his leadership post here would not only serve as an endorsement from SEIU CT and state employees of his extremist rhetoric, it would also signal a gross disregard for the recent atrocities committed against Israeli citizens and the continued threat against Jews, including members of our families, posed by Hamas terrorists and anti-Semites throughout the world. Please join us in calling for the removal of Mr. Caraway from his post.

Sincerely,



State Representative Devin Carney
Assistant Republican Leader
23rd House District



Vincent Candelora
House Republican Leader
86th House District



Mitch Bolinsky
Assistant Republican Leader
106th House District



Kevin Kelly
Senate Republican Leader
21st Senate District

CC: Labor Committee Chair Julie Kushner
CC: Labor Committee Chair Manny Sanchez
CC: Labor Committee Ranking Member Rob Sampson
CC: Labor Committee Ranking Member Tim Ackert