



March 13, 2005

Ref: HB 5740 - An Act Concerning Ergonomics and Workplace Safety

To Whom It May Concern:

S&S Worldwide is a leading distributor of Arts and Crafts and Sports products located in Colchester, CT. We employ approximately 300 employees and have been in business for 100 years.

Please consider this written testimony against HB 5740. This measure places significant and unrealistic burdens on Connecticut employers and their safety committees. A few key points would be as follows:

It is not realistic for an employer to have to review and analyze private employee medical records. These records are not readily available for any employer due to privacy laws and it would be unreasonable for any employer to request these records from their employees.

The mere collection and review of said records would result in expenditure relating to hiring additional clerical staff.

Safety Committee members are not qualified industrial engineers and therefore not well equipped to review and analyze jobs/work tasks to identify potential ergonomic risks that contribute to musculoskeletal disorders. Most employers cannot bear the burden of hiring these trained experts to review job tasks for potential ergonomic risks.

This proposal is an expensive measure and naïve in its attempt to address a complex issue that will constantly change as science and products are developed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Schwartz', is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Adam Schwartz
VP and General Counsel
S&S Worldwide

ALS/smk

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