

**TESTIMONY**  
**JOHN YUSZA, JR.**  
**CONNECTICUT ALARM & SYSTEMS INTEGRATORS**  
**ASSOCIATION (CASIA)**  
**BEFORE THE**  
**LABOR COMMITTEE**  
**MARCH 14, 2006**

The Connecticut Alarm & Systems Integrators Association (CASIA) opposes **HB-5470, An Act Concerning Ergonomics and Workplace Safety**, which place significant and unrealistic burdens on Connecticut employers.

HB-5470 requires employers to review and analyze private employee medical records to determine whether there is a pattern of ergonomic-related injuries or illnesses. In addition to being burdensome, this bill creates tension between employers and their employees because employees understandably want to protect the privacy of their medical records;

The bill also requires an employer to review and analyze each and every job and the tasks required to perform that job in order to identify potential ergonomic risks that contribute to musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs). In addition, the bill calls for us to solicit input about ergonomic problems by reviewing complaints, interviewing employees, conducting surveys or distributing questionnaires. Under the bill, employers must also develop procedures for joint evaluation of the extent and cause of any work-related ergonomic issues and make improvements in job design;

The only way that our businesses would be able to comply with this daunting request would be to hire outside consultants at considerable cost to the business and to our employees. When we are forced to spend money to comply with unnecessary and complex laws and regulations, we are unable to provide our employees with raises, additional benefits or even hire new employees to expand the business. **Simply put, this bill will “protect” employees right out of a job.**

CASIA therefore urges you to oppose this bill.

*CASIA/Connecticut Alarm & Systems Integrators Association, established in 1974, is a statewide trade association formerly known as the Connecticut Burglar and Fire Alarm Association (CBFAA). Dedicated to protecting lives through the responsible use of electronic security, fire and supervisory alarm systems, digital technologies have enabled members companies to offer enhanced services through integrated network systems.*