

Media Arts Center

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March 9, 2006

Testimony on Senate Bill 462, An Act Concerning a Fair Share Health Care Surcharge, for the Labor Committee

To: Senator Prague, Representative Ryan and Members of the Labor
Committee

As a co-owner of a small, independent video production business in
Orange, I am unable to attend the public hearing today of your
committee. However, I feel it is important to let you know of my
support for Senate Bill 462.

My partner and I operate our business ourselves. We provide classes in
video production, produce commercial films ourselves and hire
freelancers as required. We are unable to consider hiring permanent
employees since the health insurance costs would be prohibitively
expensive for us. My business partner and I pay for private insurance
coverage.

There is a health care crisis in this country and in Connecticut. Large
corporations are taking unfair advantage of the state health care
system. Wal-Mart and other corporations happily accept tax breaks and
encourage their employees to seek public assistance while amassing
their fantastic profits. Why must families and small business subsidize
these behemoth corporations?

Connecticut needs to support small businesses and families. One way
you can do that is by addressing the health care/insurance issue. I
urge you to pass SB 462.

Jim Gehrler
Co-Director