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**Testimony of the  
Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce  
to the Judiciary Committee  
March 24, 2006**

**RE: SB 548, An Act Concerning the Award of Workers' Compensation for Scarring and Disfigurement**

Chairman McDonald, Chairman Lawlor, members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today **in Opposition to SB 548, An Act Concerning the Award of Workers' Compensation for Scarring and Disfigurement**. My name is Louise DiCocco-Beauton, and I am Director of Governmental Affairs for the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce. The Greater New Haven Chamber is a regional business organization with more than 1800 members from 15 cities and towns in the region.

The Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce is opposed to this measure. SB 548 would repeal an important workers' compensation reform measure by allowing for highly subjective compensation awards for scarring and disfigurement regardless of their location or severity.

The landmark workers' compensation reforms of the 1990's restored balance to the system and have been instrumental in attracting and retaining businesses and jobs to Connecticut. In a climate where many businesses can choose where they locate, those reforms must be allowed to continue in order to maintain our competitiveness. Connecticut's standard for scarring awards is the equivalent to or more generous than most other states. The overwhelming majority of states restrict disfigurement awards to the face or head. At least 30 states are more restrictive than Connecticut with scarring and disfigurement awards.

Connecticut's current benefit structure is fair and does not need to be changed. This measure would put Connecticut significantly out of line with other states. It would serve as a deterrent to business relocations and new business start-ups. The Chamber urges you to oppose this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

*For more information, please contact Louise DiCocco-Beauton Esq.,  
Director of Governmental Affairs, Greater New Haven Chamber of  
Commerce, at (203) 782-4330.*