



State of Connecticut
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

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"Equality and Justice"

**Testimony of Raymond P. Pech
Executive Director
Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities**

February 21, 2007

**Senate Bill 1126: An Act Concerning the State Set-Aside
Program**

This bill would set a certifying standard for small businesses. It would also strengthen the state set-aside program by mandating some provisions for monitoring and enforcement of the set-aside goals of state agencies. The Commission strongly supports this bill.

The Commission is especially pleased to see the language in subsection (j) of section 4-60g, which would require an awarding agency to give notice to any contractor believed to have wilfully violated a provision of the set-aside law and to the Commission. The Commission is charged, along with the Department of Administrative Services, with monitoring agencies' compliance with the set-aside program. It is appropriate, when any notice contemplated by this section is sent by an awarding agency, that the Commission be noticed as well. We are also pleased to see the language that would require agencies that do not achieve at least fifty percent of their program goals by the end of the second reporting period to provide a written explanation to DAS and the Commission addressing how they plan to achieve their goals in the final reporting period.

Thank you for your consideration of the Commission's views on this bill.