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**Testimony of the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce
to the Judiciary Committee**

March 14, 2007

Re: HB 7326, AAC Captive Audience Meetings

Chairman McDonald, Chairman Lawlor, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today in **Opposition** to HB 7326, AAC Captive Audience Meetings. 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 of Commerce is a regional business organization with more than 1900 members from 15 cities and towns in the region.

The bill would prohibit employers from requiring that employees attend or participate in meetings that communicate the employer's position regarding politics, religion or labor organizing activities.

Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act prescribes the rights of employees to participate in union organizing activities, to join unions if so desired, or to refrain from doing so. This process allows both the union and employer the opportunity to present information important to eligible voters. The National Labor Relations Board is charged with overseeing the process to ensure it's fair.

This proposal would disrupt the regulated process by prohibiting employers from talking to their employees and presenting them with relevant information and facts. Section 8 (c) of the NLRA provides it is not an unfair labor practice for an employer to express a view about unionization, which could include speaking to its employees about unionization. The existing provision is intended to ensure that employees receive a balanced perspective. Hearing only one side does not enable employees to make informed decisions.

This bill goes too far down the road in limiting the protected right of freedom of speech and restricting employers in day-to-day operations. The Chamber urges you to oppose this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

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