



**TESTIMONY OF
ANDY MARKOWSKI
CONNECTICUT STATE DIRECTOR
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS
RE: SB-602, AAC EMPLOYER-SPONSORED MEETINGS
BEFORE THE LABOR COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 20, 2007**

The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) strongly opposes the intent of SB-602, An Act Concerning Employer Sponsored Meetings, which would ban mandatory employer-sponsored meetings when those meetings are held for the purpose of communicating the employers' opinions on religious or political matters, including labor-organizing activities. While on the surface the proposed bill appears to apply only to particular entities, passage of this legislation would set bad precedent, which could harm small businesses throughout Connecticut.

For some time, small businesses have been recognized as the engines of growth for the state's economy. Unfortunately, the proposed legislation would undermine these efforts by adversely affecting small business owners who may discuss politics, religion or other issues with customers or vendors in a small business environment as violating workers' rights. Businesses would also be prohibited from discussing legislation that may affect the business and / or the jobs it provides for employees with those employees. Passage of this legislation would be throwing up just one more roadblock that makes it difficult for Connecticut's small businesses to succeed.

Additionally, NFIB believes this measure: (1) is preempted by the National Labor Relations Act; (2) could promote new and costly civil litigation; and (3) would prevent employers from communicating the importance of participating in the political process.

NFIB therefore urges lawmakers to reject SB-602. If you have any questions, please contact me at 860-707-3620. Thank you.