



Connecticut Business & Industry Association

**Testimony of Kia F. Murrell
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Before the Committee on Labor and Public Employees
Hartford, CT
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H.B. 5249 AAC Timely Medical Treatment for Injured Workers

Good Afternoon chairs and members of the Committee, I am Kia Murrell of the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA), which CBIA represents more than 10,000 companies throughout the state of Connecticut, the majority of which are employers of 50 or less employees. CBIA generally supports legislation that does not increase the costs of doing business in the state or administrative burdens on employers in dealing with employment and workplace issues. Unfortunately, we believe that **H.B. 5249 AAC Timely Medical Treatment for Injured Workers will unfairly and unilaterally penalize employers** for delays in medical treatment in cases of contested medical recommendations. Therefore, we oppose this legislation.

H.B. 5249 Penalizes employers for exercising their right to question or contest medical treatment recommendations in workers compensation cases. The bill also holds employer liable for 100% of an injured worker's weekly wage replacement and other benefits accrued during the period of dispute and allows workers to recover attorney's fees arising out of the dispute under certain circumstances.

If an employer believes that proposed treatment recommended by a workers compensation medical provider is unreasonable and unnecessary, the employer has a right to question the recommendation, seek clarification of it or seek an another medical opinion through an independent medical examination. Debates and discussions between employers and their insurers and medical providers are commonplace and are needed to ensure that injured workers receive necessary and appropriate medical care. It also serves to safeguard against potential fraudulent workers compensation claims. **Employers have a right to contest recommendations for medical treatment under the Workers Compensation Act, and to penalize employers for exercising this right is both unfair and unwarranted.**

This legislation all of the reasons stated above, we **oppose** this legislation and urge the committee to reject **H.B. 5249**.