



**TESTIMONY OF
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LEGISLATIVE CHAIR
CT PLUMBING, HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION
BEFORE THE
LABOR COMMITTEE
MARCH 3, 2009**

The Connecticut Plumbing, Heating & Cooling Contractors Association (CT-PHCC) **opposes** HB- 6534, An Act Concerning Labor Union Authorization Card Checks.

The bill requires the state labor board to investigate petitions filed by: an employee; the union seeking to unionize a workforce; or the employer, complaining about the outcome of a union card signing process to select the union.

While at first this does not sound too harmful, our concern is that in the past this measure has been extended to require that employers receiving state funds (defined as any state grant, financial assistance, state loan or other state-funded incentive under Title 32 of the general statutes) permit union organizers to distribute labor organization authorization cards on the employer's premises. And to require an employer to recognize a union if it can demonstrate that there was majority support for such through a card check to be verified by the State Board of Labor Relations.

Employees that are skeptical of or opposed to bringing a union into the workplace deserve the protections of a secret-ballot election rather than having to face pressures from colleagues pushing them to sign unionization cards. In addition, small businesses deserve the protections that are afforded to them under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA).

In these difficult economic times, HB-6534 sends the wrong message to Connecticut employers. With the unemployment rate at 7%, Connecticut needs to take steps to foster the growth of small businesses, not hamstringing them with proposals that reinforce the notion that Connecticut is state that is unfriendly towards business.

CT-PHCC believes that this proposal is unnecessary. Therefore, we urge the committee to **reject** HB- 6534.

Thank you for allowing me to comment today.

CT-PHCC is a not-for-profit trade association that represents the professional plumbing, heating and cooling contractors in the state of Connecticut. CT-PHCC and its members are committed to protecting the health and safety of the public. Contractors who belong to the association have demonstrated reliability and trustworthiness and are licensed by the state of Connecticut.