



**TESTIMONY OF  
ROBIN WILSON, PRESIDENT AND CEO  
THE QUINNIPIAC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
BEFORE THE  
LABOR COMMITTEE  
MARCH 3, 2009**

Recognizing the vital role that small and midsize businesses play in Connecticut's economy, the Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce **opposes** **HB- 6534**, An Act Concerning Union Authorization Card Checks that requires the state Labor Relations Board to investigate petitions that are filed either by the employee, union organizer or the employer.

While this measure as written is limited in scope, there is the potential for this to open a "Pandora's box" resulting in a push to require an employer to recognize a union if the union can demonstrate that there was majority support for such through a card check to be verified by the State Board of Labor Relations.

Under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), employers are bound by strict guidelines to preserve the rights of employees to join unions, to bargain collectively with their employers, and to strike without fear of management reprisal. The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) was created to enforce this right and prohibit employers from committing unfair labor practices that might discourage organizing or prevent workers from negotiating a union contract.

Expansion of the proposed HB-6534 could deny employees their right to vote in a secret ballot election supervised by NLRB. In the absence of an election supervised by the NLRB, there is no protection against inappropriate pressuring of card signers or inadequate explanation of the purpose of the cards. Also, it would take the jurisdiction for verification away from the NLRB and give it to the State Labor Relations Board.

Small businesses in Connecticut are responsible for creating over 90% of all new jobs in Connecticut during the last ten years. Unfortunately, the state has also witnessed a record number of small businesses closing their doors. While this can be attributed to a variety of economic woes, passage of this measure will reinforce the notion to those remaining companies that Connecticut is an unfriendly state to do business.

Connecticut needs to take steps to rebuild our economy. HB-6534 will NOT achieve this goal. Therefore, the Quinnipiac Chamber respectfully urges the committee to **reject** **HB-6534**.

*The Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce serves more than 800 member companies from the North Haven and Wallingford area. We are the largest non-metropolitan chamber in the state.*