



CT-PHCC

PLUMBING-HEATING-COOLING CONTRACTORS OF CONNECTICUT

TESTIMONY
BOB MACCA
LEGISLATIVE CHAIR
CT PLUMBING, HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION
BEFORE THE
LABOR COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 17, 2009

RE: OPPOSE – SB-113, AN ACT CONCERNING UNEMPLOYMENT
COMPENSATION

The Connecticut Plumbing, Heating & Cooling Contractors Association (CT-PHCC) **opposes SB-113, which would expand eligibility for unemployment compensation benefits.**

The unemployment compensation system is designed to provide a temporary income to individuals who lose their job through no fault of their own. The generally accepted objective of the weekly benefit amount is to provide a wage replacement that is high enough to cover a claimant's non-deferrable expenses, but not so high as to undermine his or her incentive to return to work. Allowing individuals to collect more than their weekly wage replacement levels creates a significant disincentive for people to return to work.

The current law appropriately balances benefits under the unemployment compensation system with the ability to earn wages on a part-time basis without increasing employer costs. Lawmakers should reject any attempts to undermine an individual's incentive to return to work.

In addition, expanding eligibility for unemployment compensation benefits will result in increased payroll taxes on employers, which will undermine our long-term economic recovery.

Therefore, we respectfully ask the committee to **reject SB 113.**

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.