



**Testimony
Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce
Before the
Commerce Committee
February 17, 2009**

The Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce supports **HB-5930, An Act Requiring Small Business Impact Analyses for Proposed Regulations.**

Recognizing the vital role that small businesses play in Connecticut's economy, the Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce supports **HB-5930**, which will help create a regulatory environment that nurtures the growth of small businesses. Giving small employers a voice early in the rulemaking process is critical to reducing the negative impact of regulations on small businesses as well as increasing the level of regulatory compliance. **HB-5930** will help Connecticut achieve these important goals by strengthening its regulatory fairness law.

Small businesses in Connecticut are responsible for creating over 90% of all new jobs in Connecticut in the last ten years. Unfortunately, the state has witnessed a record number of small businesses closing their doors. While this can be attributed to a variety of economic woes, small businesses often cite the staggering amounts of time and resources that must go into complying with complex and often confusing state regulations as a major barrier to competitiveness. We must take steps to address this by creating a mechanism for easing the regulatory burden on small employers.

The bill requires agencies to publish a fiscal note with proposed regulations, outlining the impact on small businesses in the state, including an estimate of the number of small businesses subject to the proposed regulation and the projected costs, such as reporting, recordkeeping and administrative, associated with compliance with the proposed regulation. It also redefines small business as an employer with fewer than 75 employees rather than 50 employees, which is consistent with state practices. By considering the impact on small businesses and consulting with small businesses as part of the rulemaking process, agencies will be able to craft regulations that meet their goals without unduly burdening small businesses.

We would also recommend that Connecticut create, when the budget allows, a web portal, similar to the state of Rhode Island, where interested parties can access regulatory alerts when agencies file a notice for a proposed rule that may affect their small business. This will give small business owners a voice in addressing concerns about the adverse impact of a proposed rule and suggesting regulatory alternatives that are less burdensome.

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.