



Connecticut Business & Industry Association

**Testimony Of
Jesmin K. Basanti, CBIA
Higher Education & Employment Advancement Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, Connecticut
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Good Morning Representative Willis, Senator Handley and other members of the Higher Education Committee. My name is Jesmin Basanti, Staff Attorney for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents approximately 10,000 member companies in virtually every industry and the vast majority of our member companies have fewer than 50 employees.

Training for Green Industries and Jobs

As our economy continues to move towards sustainable green industries, Connecticut will need to ensure that our workforce is equipped with the skills necessary to work and grow in this new atmosphere. CBIA **supports** the creation of a green industry job training program for the community technical colleges and even expanding the program to the technical high schools. We have been working with regional workforce development boards on an Advanced Manufacturing grant to assist in this area and our members agree it is important. We understand that state may be receiving funds from the federal stimulus package that could assist in this area.

HB 5837- An Act Concerning Cooperation between Vocational-Technical Schools and Regional Community-Technical Colleges

CBIA has long recognized the need for a better educated and skilled workforce. One of the obstacles facing our workforce from obtaining the skills and education they need is access. By making it easier for students to transition between vocational-technical schools and the technical community college, not only will they be able to take advantage of more opportunities but it will also decrease the cost of education. It will create a seamless pathway for students to continue their education and build their skills as they continue their education. The need to master basic reading and math skills are essential for taking community college level courses, and through this initiative, the number of students having to take remedial courses could also potentially be diminished. Therefore, the cost-savings will not only be passed onto to students but to the state also.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.