

TESTIMONY OF  
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SUBMITTED TO THE  
LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE  
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LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

Good day. My name is Peter Gioia. I am the economist for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents over 10,000 firms, which employ about 700,000 women and men in Connecticut. Our membership consists of firms of all sizes and types, the vast majority of which are small businesses employing fewer than 50 people.

**CBIA strongly opposes HB 6191, An Act Concerning Impact Statements For Major Layoffs or Dismissals of State Employees.**

HB 6191

Now in these severe recessionary times more than ever, Connecticut's ability to manage its state and local government's budgets has a direct effect on our economy. The more effective and efficient that government is, the better our business climate will be, and the better Connecticut will be able to compete with other states to first keep and then bring in businesses and the jobs and revenue they generate. These jobs make the economy stronger and produce additional tax revenues that make it easier to pay for state and local programs and services.

The ability to manage the state budget is vitally necessary, especially during trying times when we face an estimated \$9 billion shortfall in the current fiscal year's budget and the next biennium budget as well as both cyclical and structural economic change may significantly alter

revenue and expenditure assumption inherent in the appropriations act. Therefore, allowing the executive branch sufficient opportunity and flexibility to address budgetary challenges in a timely manner is vital to limit overall damage to state services.

This bill creates additional obstacles that may lead to substantial delays in the ability of the executive branch to exercise necessary changes in state personnel or services to meet fiscal crises. We at CBIA believe that the present system already handicaps rapid and effective budget adjustment by the executive branch. This bill would make a difficult system that much worse.

CBIA strongly urges the Committee to reject the bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.