



Connecticut Business & Industry Association

**TESTIMONY
BEFORE THE
PUBLIC HEALTH, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE AND HUMAN SERVICES
COMMITTEES
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
MARCH 2, 2009**

My name is Eric George and I am Associate Counsel for the Connecticut Business & Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents approximately 10,000 businesses throughout Connecticut and the vast majority of these are small companies employing less than 50 people.

Both nationally and in Connecticut, the health care system is in need of repair.

More needs to be done to improve the health of our citizens. Employers find health care costs rising faster than other input costs. Some providers are unable to generate sufficient patient revenue to cover costs. Some patients cannot get timely access to optimal care. And too many individuals remain without health insurance, engage in unhealthy behaviors and live in unhealthy environments.

For the business community, the issues of health care quality, cost and access are critical. After numerous years of double-digit and near-double-digit increases, health insurance has quickly become a product that many people and companies find they can no longer afford. In addition, the cost of health care directly affects businesses' ability to create new jobs. In fact, according to CBIA's latest membership survey, over two-thirds of our members indicated that rising health benefit costs alone are negatively affecting their ability to hire additional workers.

And as we move towards meaningful health care reform, we must, at the same time, do everything we can to bolster our economy and protect our various industries and the jobs they produce. It is therefore paramount that we preserve the financial health of our pharmaceutical industry, especially in these trying economic times. To that end, CBIA asks these committees to oppose the following bills:

- **SB 1046, AN ACT CONCERNING RESTRICTED ACCESS TO PRESCRIPTION DRUG INFORMATION**
- **SB 1049, AN ACT PROHIBITING CERTAIN GIFTS FROM PHARMACEUTICAL AND MEDICAL DEVICE COMPANIES TO HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS**
- **SB 1050, AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ACADEMIC DETAILING PROGRAM**

Thank you for your attention and we look forward to working with you on this and other matters.