



CONNECTICUT BUSINESS & INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

TESTIMONY OF
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VICE PRESIDENT AND ECONOMIST
CONNECTICUT BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
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LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

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

CBIA would like to comment upon the following bills SB28, SB29 and SB 424.

SB 29

CBIA strongly supports the Governor's call for the PERFORM group to convene and deliver recommendations for creating more efficient government services. Continued budget problems plague the state but alarmingly OFA projects \$3 billion plus shortfalls in FYs 2012-14. Obviously extraordinary measures to improve efficiencies are paramount concerns if the state is to avoid massive tax increases that while derail fragile economic recovery. CBIA believes this is the best suggestion so far before policy makers to help avoid this budget calamity. We implore the committee to pass this bill.

SB 28

CBIA believes this bill can augment the efforts in SB 29 to better determine what services are needed to be provided in a cost-effective manner in these difficult budget times. Review of services in many areas, particularly long term care are needed to adjust the budget to what the state can afford while being certain that our most needy citizens are cared for. We urge the committee to pass the bill.

SB 424

This bill may have merit in finding ways to consolidate high cost areas to achieve savings while maintaining the most vital services. We hope the committee finds a way to merge this call with the recommendations in SB 28.

Given the herculean budget challenges of 2012-14 the General Assembly needs to act now to defuse potential future deficiency problems.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.