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*Marshall R. Collins & Associates*

TESTIMONY OF  
**THE CONNECTICUT MESSENGER COURIER ASSOCIATION**  
**THE CONNECTICUT COALITION OF PROPERTY OWNERS**  
**THE GREATER DANBURY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
**THE LUMBER DEALERS' ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT**  
**THE MILFORD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
**THE NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
BEFORE  
THE LEGISLATURE'S LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE  
2:00 PM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2010  
ROOM 1E, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

Good afternoon. My name is Marshall R. Collins. I am appearing in my capacity as Counsel for Government Relations for the aforementioned six organizations (the "Organizations"). Collectively they represent more than 4,000 employers of approximately 130,000 men and women in Connecticut.

The Organizations oppose **SB 61 AA Removing The Requirement Of Employer Or Insurer Preapproval For The Provision Of Certain Medical Examinations And Treatment To Injured Workers.**

The bill appears to delete the preapproval requirement for various medical treatments which the 1993 workers' compensation reforms adopted as an important cost saving measure. The Organizations believe that now more than ever it is important to fairly control workers' compensation costs. If an employer unfairly withheld approval of appropriate treatment, sufficient appeal provisions exist. Consequently there is little reason to increase workers' compensation costs.

The Organizations also oppose **HB 5201 AAC Interest Penalties On late Payment Of Assessments To The Second Injury Fund.**

This bill eliminates the discretion of the agency regarding fines. Instead of fining a late payer 15% or \$50 the penalty would be increased to 15% or \$50 whichever is greater. This may unfairly penalize the struggling employer that inadvertently is late with a payment. In this difficult economy it is unnecessary to add even more burdens to an employer that makes an innocent mistake.

This completes my testimony. Thank you for your consideration.