

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
3:00 PM, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2010
ROOM 1E, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING

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.

SB 94 AAC Concerning The Use Of Payroll Cards for Wage Payments To Employees.

The bill would mandate that employers provide payroll by either direct deposit or through payroll debit card accounts if an employee so desired. There would be no option for the employer. Therefore an additional amount of employer discretion would be removed. Furthermore, by having to administer multiple forms of payroll accounts, an additional administrative burden would be placed on employers. The Organizations believe that uniformity of payroll can be a cost saver. They should retain that discretion. The Organizations oppose SB 94.

SB 95 AA Preserving Good Cause For late Filing of Certain Unemployment Compensation Appeals.

In cases where overpayments of unemployment benefits have been determined, this bill would permit claimants to appeal after the twenty-one-day deadline, provided the claimants can demonstrate good cause for such late appeal. The organizations believe that the current 21 day period within which to appeal is appropriate. They do not oppose the

change in the method of counting the days; however, to inject the uncertainty of determining whether "good cause" has been demonstrated is bad policy. It is in the interest of employers, the State and taxpayers that appeals in such cases not be extended beyond the 21 day period. The Organizations oppose SB 95.

HB 5060 AAC The Use Of Criminal Records For The Purpose Of Denying A Promotion To An Individual Employed in The Food Service Or Retail Industries and HB 5061 AA Eliminating Credit Reports As A Basis For Employment Decisions.

The two bills are related in that they both erode the ability of employers to make appropriate employment decisions. The Organizations believe that they should have the discretion regarding what background information is relevant to whom they hire for their respective industries. The Organizations oppose both HB 5060 and HB 5061.

Individually, these proposals may seem inconsequential; however, taken together, they place additional burdens on employers and remove the employers' ability to make necessary and appropriate employment decisions. Collectively these bills increase costs and provide one more reason for companies not to do business in Connecticut.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you for your consideration.