



Connecticut Business & Industry Association

**Testimony of Kia F. Murrell  
Assistant Counsel, CBIA  
Before the Committee on Labor and Public Employees  
Hartford, CT  
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**S.B. 65 AAC Unemployment Compensation Extended Benefits**

Good Afternoon Senator Prague, Representative Ryan and other members of the Committee. My name is Kia Murrell and I am Assistant Counsel for Labor & Employment matters at the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents more than 10,000 companies throughout the state of Connecticut, ranging from large corporations to small businesses, but the vast majority of our members are small businesses of fifty or fewer employees.

S.B. 65 requires that government employers pay the state Unemployment Compensation Fund all of the money expended from it for extended unemployment insurance benefits attributable to their employees in accordance with federal law. Specifically, the state government, Indian tribes, towns, cities and other political and governmental subdivisions of the state must reimburse the Fund one hundred percent of all extended benefits paid to their employees.

As a result of the national economic downturn and its effect on job losses and business closings in the state, Connecticut's Unemployment Compensation Fund has been under severe strain and pressure in the last year. A high volume of unemployment benefit claims have caused the Fund to become insolvent, forcing the state to borrow millions of dollars from the federal government to meet our benefit obligations.

In light of that fact, it is imperative that public sector employers who reimburse the Fund rather than paying unemployment taxes (as most private sector employers do) carry their fair share of the unemployment benefit burden. In regard to both regular and extended unemployment benefits, laws requiring that public sector employers reimburse the full amount of monies expended out of the system to their employees is essential to ensuring short and long-term solvency of our state Fund.

CBIA supports S.B. 65 and encourages the Committee to enact this legislation. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.