



## CONNECTICUT

**TESTIMONY OF  
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS  
BY  
ANDY MARKOWSKI, CONNECTICUT STATE DIRECTOR  
OPPOSING  
SB-240, AAC THE E-VERIFY PROGRAM  
BEFORE THE  
LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE  
MARCH 2, 2010**

*The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), Connecticut's and the nation's leading small-business association, respectfully submits the following comments opposing SB-240, An Act Concerning The E-Verify Program:*

NFIB/Connecticut opposes the current bill as drafted, however, we would support a *workable* e-verify system, which means that there should be a safe harbor for employers if they follow the system. The current bill does not contain any such provision. The program at the federal level right now is not workable and NFIB/Connecticut opposes making THAT program mandatory.

Unfortunately, recent studies have shown that there is a 54 percent error rate with the current federal e-verify system. Westat, a research company that evaluated the e-verify system for the U.S. Homeland Security Department, found 54 percent of the illegal immigrants checked through e-verify are cleared to work because they are using stolen or borrowed identities.

Lawmakers need to only look so far as neighboring states such as Rhode Island and New York to see the problems with an unworkable e-verify system. Rhode Island is experiencing problems with an e-verify requirement as currently applied to state contractors, and Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York, who is writing the Democrats' immigration bill at the federal level has fought expanding e-verify because of its flaws and has said that the fact that e-verify was inaccurate so often shows that it is not an adequate tool.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and NFIB urges rejection of SB-240.