



CONNECTICUT BUSINESS & INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

**Testimony of Kevin R. Hennessy  
Assistant Counsel  
Connecticut Business & Industry Association  
Before the Banks Committee  
February 10, 2011**

My name is Kevin Hennessy. I am assistant counsel for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (hereinafter "CBIA"). CBIA represents approximately 10,000 member companies in virtually every industry. They range from large, global corporations to small, family owned businesses. Approximately 90 percent of our member companies have fewer than 50 employees.

Identity theft is a very serious problem that affects individual citizens and business alike, endangering private lives and Connecticut's economy. However, CBIA is concerned that the following identity theft bill is too broad:

- **P-SB 254, AAC Credit File Monitoring for Victims of Personal Identifying Information Theft.**

*P-SB 254, AAC Credit File Monitoring for Victims of Personal Identifying Information Theft*, requires lending institutions that inadequately safeguard a person's personal identifying information to provide lifetime credit file monitoring to such person if the information is lost or stolen.

Because this is a proposed bill and it does not have detailed language, it raises numerous questions. Will "lending institutions" include the state? What does "inadequately safeguard" mean? A person is afforded a lifetime of credit monitoring if their information is lost? The information does not have to be stolen or misused for the credit monitoring to apply? Is a lifetime of credit monitoring necessary? The state offered 1-2 years of credit monitoring when personal identifying information in its possession was compromised.

CBIA encourages the Banks Committee to proceed slowly. Identity theft is an important matter and deserves careful consideration before legislative action is taken.

Additionally, CBIA appreciates the opportunity to comment on:



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- **P-SB 195**, *AA Establishing a Centralized Database of Bank Account Information to Facilitate the Collection of Court Judgments.*

**P-SB 195**, *AA Establishing a Centralized Database of Bank Account Information to Facilitate the Collection of Court Judgments*, establishes a centralized database of bank account information to facilitate the collection of judgments issued by Connecticut and federal courts.

CBIA opposes a centralized database of bank account information. The public policy benefit of facilitating the collection of judgments is outweighed by the need to protect sensitive information. This database would be highly susceptible to theft and misuse. CBIA encourages the Banks Committee not to act further on this proposed bill.