



CONNECTICUT AFL-CIO

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Testimony of Lori Pelletier

Secretary-Treasurer of the Connecticut AFL-CIO

Before the Commerce Committee

March 1, 2011

Senator LeBeau and Representative Berger and members of the Commerce Committee, I am Lori Pelletier and I serve as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Connecticut AFL-CIO, and I'm here to testify on behalf of the 900 affiliated local unions who represent 220,000 working women and men from every city and town in our great state.

H.B. No. 6384 AN ACT TRANSFERRING THE LABOR DEPARTMENT'S APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

We oppose this legislation. The apprenticeship program is the very foundation for many workers to be productive citizens. The mission statement of the Department of Labor is "The Department is committed to protecting and promoting the interests of Connecticut workers. In order to accomplish this in an ever-changing environment, we assist workers and employers to become competitive in the global economy. We take a comprehensive approach to meeting the needs of workers and employers, and the other agencies that serve them. We ensure the supply of high-quality integrated services that serve the needs of our customers."

Whereas the mission statement for the Department of Economic and Community Development is "The Department of Economic and Community Development develops and implements strategies to attract and retain businesses and jobs, revitalize neighborhoods and communities, ensure quality housing and foster appropriate development in Connecticut's towns and cities."

Clearly the apprenticeship program belongs in the department who is interested in protecting the integrity of the workforce in this ever-changing economy, while providing employers with a skilled workforce.

We appreciate the Commerce Committee holding this public hearing.

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