



State of Connecticut

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LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Testimony for SB 842 AA REQUIRING JOBS IMPACT STATEMENTS ON LEGISLATION AFFECTING EMPLOYMENT IN THE STATE February 3, 2011

Good morning Chairmen LeBeau and Berger, and Ranking Members Frantz and Camillo, and members of the Commerce Committee. I am here to express my support for Senate Bill 842 *An Act Requiring Jobs Impact Statements on Legislation Affecting Employment in the State*.

Each year as legislators we vote on hundreds of bills that affect the citizens of Connecticut. We do our best to consider all the information available in order to make informed and responsible decisions that are in the best interest of our constituents.

There are many times that we find ourselves asking, "What kind of impact will this piece of legislation have on jobs in Connecticut?" When legislation makes its way to the floor of the House or Senate, we currently have the ability to see the fiscal impact on the state and municipalities, but not the impact on jobs. SB 842 is a concept that attempts to address the need for jobs-related information.

As you know, the House Republican Caucus has been advocating for job impact statements to be included in our fiscal notes for a number of years now so we applaud the committee for raising SB 842. This is an important step to making our state government truly transparent to our citizens. I would like to note a couple of concerns with the bill

as it is currently drafted. The emphasis on unemployment, while well-intentioned, is not something that we can predict. For example, if an open position is filled by a person who moves into Connecticut from another state that will have no impact on our unemployment rate. I hope that future versions will focus on an analysis of whether a new law would create or destroy jobs, not on unemployment.

My second concern is that the bill includes the state as an employer. Governor Malloy is working on a plan that makes significant reductions to the state budget, including the consolidation of agencies. The only significant savings from consolidations will come from the elimination of redundant or unnecessary positions. Decisions about state government jobs should be part of a budget debate, not part of a debate about jobs and the economy. It is not our job to create state jobs. It is our job to create a government that runs efficiently for taxpayers and fosters private-sector job growth.

On January 25th, Legislative Republicans unveiled its Common Sense Proposals for the 2011 Legislative Session. One of those common sense proposals was the inclusion of job impact statements on ten bills joint favorably reported out of the Finance Committee. In December, the Office of Fiscal Analysis analyzed and studied its ability to provide job impact statements and reported back to the legislature three ways they could provide this service. In our proposed HB 5999, we chose what I would refer to as the compromise scenario, given our limited resources at the moment. The report from OFA indicated that providing the job impact of every bill would cost close to \$400,000. Limiting the analysis to only 10 bills each session would cut the cost by about \$250,000. We felt our version of the proposal would at least put us on the right path of determining the impact of certain legislation on jobs in Connecticut.

Creating an environment where businesses can grow and our citizens can find employment is one of our most important responsibilities. During these dire economic times it is vital that we consider how each piece of legislation will affect businesses, the economy and job growth.

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Thank you again for the opportunity to come before you and we look forward to working with the Committee and General Assembly in crafting a piece of legislation that will be cost effective as well as beneficial to the members of the legislature, and businesses and our working community.

If you have any questions, I would be happy to take them now.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. J. Candelora". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Vincent J. Candelora
Deputy House Republican Leader