



State of Connecticut

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Public Hearing Testimony

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Commerce Committee

John McKinney, Senate Minority Leader, 28th District

Re: SB 842 – An Act Requiring Jobs Impact Statements on Legislation Affecting Employment in the State

Good morning Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger, Ranking Members Frantz and Camillo and members of the Commerce Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **SB 842 – An Act Requiring Jobs Impact Statements on Legislation Affecting Employment in the State**.

While economists have indicated that the recession has ended, for many residents and their families, those words ring hollow. Unemployment continues to remain at its highest level in decades, residential foreclosures continue to climb, and businesses continue to close their doors in record numbers.

Moreover, Connecticut faces a multi-billion dollar deficit that threatens to hamper future economic growth. While we recognize there will be hard choices ahead, we must not lose sight of the impact these choices will have on business, especially small businesses.

In the past, this committee has shown that it recognizes the importance of understanding the true costs of legislation and regulation. In 2009, PA 09-19 became law which required that agencies proposing new regulations conduct an economic analysis to determine the impact on small businesses.

SB 842 would further the progress made by passing PA 09-19 by requiring that all legislation have a jobs impact statement attached to it before it can become law. This impact statement would indicate the effects on employment in the current fiscal year and five years into the future. In the past, members of the Senate Republican Caucus have proposed legislation similar to SB 842. This year, we are pleased that the Commerce Committee has raised this bill and, as such, we stand in strong support of this initiative.

Traditionally, Connecticut has lagged behind the nation when coming out of a recession. Given the depths of this recession, it is more important than ever that our state be in a position to

encourage the growth of businesses and the jobs they bring. Passage of SB 842 will help to ensure that we as a legislature have a full appreciation of the costs associated with proposed legislation.

In closing, I would like to thank the co-chairs for their willingness to raise SB 842 this session. I sincerely hope that the committee looks favorable on this bill so that it can make its way through the legislative process.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


John McKinney
Senate Minority Leader