



CONNECTICUT BUSINESS & INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

TESTIMONY
BEFORE THE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
MARCH 4, 2011

My name is Eric George and I am Associate Counsel for the Connecticut Business & Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents approximately 10,000 businesses throughout Connecticut and the vast majority of these are small companies employing less than 50 people.

While the federal government has passed health care reform, more needs to be done to lower costs. More needs to be done to improve the health of our citizens. Employers find health care costs rising faster than other input costs. Some providers are unable to generate sufficient patient revenue to cover costs. Some patients cannot get timely access to optimal care. And too many individuals remain without health insurance, engage in unhealthy behaviors and live in unhealthy environments.

For the business community, the issues of health care quality, cost and access are critical. After numerous years of double-digit and near-double-digit increases, health insurance has quickly become a product that many people and companies find they can no longer afford. In addition, the cost of health care directly affects businesses' ability to create new jobs. And the cost of medical malpractice and defensive medicine contribute to healthcare costs.

With that, CBIA urges the committee to reject **HB 6487, AN ACT CONCERNING CERTIFICATES OF MERIT.**

In 2005, the general assembly adopted beneficial medical malpractice reform with the passage of Public Act 05-275. A significant provision of that law deals with certificates of merit. Unfortunately, **HB 6487** erodes PA 05-275 and threatens to undo many of these beneficial provisions.

Again, please reject **HB 6487** and thank you for the opportunity to offer CBIA's comments on this legislation. I look forward to working with you on this and other issues related to the reforming Connecticut's health care system.