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**Testimony of Kia F. Murrell  
Assistant Counsel, CBIA  
Before the Committee on Labor and Public Employees  
Hartford, CT  
March 1, 2011**

**H.B. 6428 AAC State Financial Assistance and Employers That Have  
Transferred Jobs Out of State**

My name is Kia Murrell, Assistant Counsel for Labor & Employment matters at the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents more than 10,000 companies throughout the state of Connecticut, ranging from large corporations to small businesses. We believe that H.B. 6428 will have a negative impact on economic development in the state by discouraging companies from starting, growing or doing business with the state government. Therefore, we oppose this legislation.

H.B. 6428 prohibits various state agencies from awarding financial assistance to companies of 100 or more employees that layoff, reassign or transfer out of state 50 or more jobs during the term of their financial assistance contracts with the state. State "financial assistance" includes loans, grants, guarantees and tax abatements. If an organization eliminates or reduces its workforce by 50 employees during the period of its state contract, the full amount of financial assistance received plus a 5% penalty must be repaid to the state agency.

As today's tough economy has shown, high unemployment, business closures and the reduction of employee benefits have become commonplace as employers throughout the nation struggle to keep their businesses alive and our economy thriving. That is why businesses must have the flexibility to adjust their workforces, their fiscal priorities and business objectives as necessary. It is both unfair and impractical to penalize a company for such actions, especially during one of the toughest economies in history.

H.B. 6428 will discourage some companies from starting, growing and/or pursuing state contracts that would benefit state residents and state economy. Simply put, this is no area for legislation.

For the aforementioned reasons, we oppose H.B. 6428.