



**TESTIMONY
JOHN YUSZA, JR.
CONNECTICUT ALARM & SYSTEMS INTEGRATORS ASSOCIATION
BEFORE THE
LABOR COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 15, 2011**

The Connecticut Alarm & Systems Integrators Association (CASIA) opposes SB-361, **AN ACT PREVENTING THE USE OF CREDIT SCORES BY CERTAIN EMPLOYERS IN HIRING DECISIONS.**

Credit checks and criminal background checks are often performed – and should be performed - to screen job applicants in the alarm industry to ensure that a candidate will not pose a threat to customers and their property and other valuables. Employees of alarm companies often have knowledge of and access to customers' financial data and personal property, as well as information regarding when customers are away from home.

Last year, a similar bill appeared to address these concerns by allowing credit checks to be performed on employees who have “access to customers', employees' or employer's personal or financial information other than information customarily provided in a retail transaction.” Given the importance of credit checks as a screening tool in our industry, this language is critical to protecting our customers.

We would also like to point out that federal law already provides protections to employees and job applicants relative to credit checks. For example, under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, employers must advise job applicants that they will be subject to a credit check and may receive a copy of the credit report if it is used to make an adverse employment decision. This strikes an appropriate balance that provides sufficient protection to consumers.

If you have any questions regarding this testimony, please contact me at 203-269-3591. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

CASIA, a statewide trade association established in 1974, is comprised of alarm companies working together to protect lives and property through the responsible use of electrical security and fire alarm systems. Our members are professional and technically skilled and experienced in integrated systems for intrusion and fire systems, closed circuit television, telephone, intercom, home theater, access control systems and computer wiring.