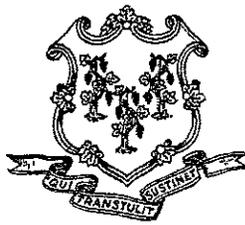


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February 15, 2011

Good Afternoon Senator Prague, Representative Zalaski and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. I am here to testify in support of SB, 361, AN ACT PREVENTING THE USE OF CREDIT SCORES BY CERTAIN EMPLOYERS IN HIRING DECISIONS and SB 482, AN ACT CONCERNING THE LABOR DEPARTMENT AND THE PROVISION OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION TO THE UNITED STATES OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.

SB 361 would increase job opportunities for individuals with some credit issues who are applying for jobs with employers that are not financial institutions. As you are all aware, the employment climate remains difficult for many Connecticut residents. The situation is made worse for those who have encountered harsh financial realities, such as mortgage foreclosure, due to their unemployment. It seems a cruel double jeopardy to then punish these job seekers again by using

their financial situation to deny them employment for which they would otherwise be considered. I urge you to pass this compassionate piece of legislation.

SB 482 would provide the United States Office of Management and Budget with updated state labor and employment information so that state agencies have access to current information for use in affirmative action plans for state contracts. A constituent brought to my attention that the affirmative action provisions regarding the goals for minority and female employees of contractors (this is not the issue of minority set-aside contracts but of who the contractors who have won the contracts hire) are significantly higher for contracts administered by the city of New Haven than for contracts administered by the state of Connecticut in the city of New Haven. After some research it appeared that each entity was using different, but outdated, statistics for the percent of available minority and women employees in the area. I believe that requiring updated figures would assist the state and the city in their affirmative action goals.

Thank you for hearing these important bills