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**POSITION STATEMENT OF THE CONNECTICUT TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
IN SUPPORT OF R.B. 798 AMENDING CONNECTICUT'S
WAGE STATUTE TO REQUIRE THE AWARDED OF DOUBLE DAMAGES IN CIVIL
ACTIONS TO COLLECT WAGES AND R.B.6096 AN ACT PRESERVING GOOD
CAUSE EXTENSIONS FOR FILING IN CERTAIN UNEMPLOYMENT
COMPENSATION APPEALS**

The Connecticut Trial Lawyers support passage of R.B. 798, which would make the award of double damages mandatory, rather than discretionary, when an individual prevails in a civil action to collect wages. This amendment will strengthen the existing law in a manner that will protect workers who have been wrongfully denied wages by their employer and thus supports Connecticut's strong public policy against the withholding of wages under any circumstances. The mandatory double damage punitive award will serve as an additional deterrent against employers who do not pay their employees or attempt to withhold their wages. It will be a strong disincentive to employers from taking advantage of their employees by withholding wages during difficult economic times.

The Connecticut trial lawyers also support R.B. 6096, which will provide for a good cause extension for persons who miss certain filing deadlines in certain unemployment compensation appeal. In these difficult economic times, unemployment compensation benefits can be indispensable for many families. Most individuals involved in unemployment claims are unrepresented, and are facing many pressures due to their unemployment. This bill sensibly recognizes this, and provides for a more flexible standard. No family in need of unemployment benefits should be denied them purely on a technical reason, such as a deadline missed in good faith.