



CONNECTICUT

**TESTIMONY OF
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS (NFIB)
BY
ANDY MARKOWSKI, CONNECTICUT STATE DIRECTOR
SUPPORTING
HB-5530, AAC A STUDY ON THE WAIVER OF FINES AND PENALTIES FOR CERTAIN
BUSINESS REGULATION VIOLATIONS
BEFORE THE
COMMERCE COMMITTEE
MARCH 20, 2012**

A non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 1943, NFIB is Connecticut's and the nation's leading small-business association. In Connecticut, NFIB represents thousands of members and their employees. NFIB membership is scattered across the state and ranges from sophisticated high technology enterprises to "Main Street" small businesses to single-person "Mom & Pop" shops that operate in traditional ways. NFIB's mission is "To promote and protect the right of its members to own, operate, and grow their businesses." On behalf of those small- and independent- job-providers in Connecticut, I offer the following comments:

NFIB/Connecticut strongly supports HB-5530, An Act Concerning A Study On The Waiver Of Fines And Penalties For Certain Business Regulation Violations. Passage of this legislation will go a long way toward ensuring a better regulatory environment and a better working relationship between state agencies and small businesses in Connecticut, the majority of whom want to do the "right thing" and quickly remediate any inadvertent noncompliance. Passage of this legislation will move towards creating some much needed regulatory relief for small businesses and will certainly help foster a more business-friendly reputation for the state of Connecticut and its administrative agencies.

Much like taxes, unreasonable government regulations and fines cost small businesses in several ways, both directly and indirectly. The federal government alone proposes approximately 150 new rules every year that cost business owners over \$100 million per rule in compliance costs. Adding state and local laws, regulations and fines that sometimes duplicate federal regulations, merely raise the cost and frustration level for small business. Allowing for waivers of fines and penalties when appropriate as contemplated in this bill is a reasonable approach that would help provide some much needed balance between the regulators and the regulated community; small businesses in particular.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and NFIB urges lawmakers to support HB-5530.