

TESTIMONY OF LOUIS W. BACH  
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON  
HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT OF THE  
CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
TUESDAY, MARCH 6th 2012

Good morning Senator Bye, Representative Willis, and members of the committee on higher education. My name is Louis W. Bach and I am here on behalf of the Connecticut Business and Industry Association. CBIA's 10,000 member companies represent the broad diversity of Connecticut's private sector, and are among the world's most innovative and productive businesses. We are pleased to offer our support of the following bills being heard today:

**SB-41 AAC WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.** Our state has been stagnant on net job creation over the last twenty years. While Connecticut is a leader in innovation and productivity, we are losing traditional advantages like our skilled workforce. Additionally, while manufacturing is beginning to return to the United States from overseas, it is not necessarily returning to the Nutmeg State.

This study is timely and, if undertaken, will hopefully shed light on some of the factors affecting our state's flat job creation numbers.

**SB-291 AA ESTABLISHING A YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SYSTEM.** Connecticut's inability to retain a younger population is due in part to the lack of available employment opportunities for youth and young adults. CBIA would welcome efforts to develop a youth employment system, and we would emphasize the role that private sector businesses can play in such an undertaking.

**SB-292 AA ALIGNING CONNECTICUT'S INTELLECTUAL CAPITAL WITH THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY.** Studying the needs of new and expanding industries in an effort to align our developing workforce with market demand would be helpful, as it is helpful to recognize the needs of "certain existing industries," however this bill should consider an occupational training program that looks at *all* industry needs. Stimulating economic activity and employment is a good thing; attempting to steer it is less beneficial.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions.