

**Testimony of Kia F. Murrell
Associate Counsel, CBIA
Before the Judiciary Committee
Hartford, CT
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S.B 365 AAC The Statute of Limitations in Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Cases

Senator Coleman, Representative Fox and other members of the Committee, my name is Kia Murrell and I am Associate Counsel at the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents more than 10,000 companies throughout the state of Connecticut, but most of our members are small businesses of 50 or fewer employees.

CBIA generally opposes legislation that increases the costs of doing business in the state. We oppose SB 365 as a business cost-driving measure that will lead to higher litigation and insurance costs for businesses subject to lawsuits for injuries caused by carbon monoxide exposure. SB 365 extends the statute of limitations for personal injury claims emanating from carbon monoxide exposure.

We find it unnecessary to extend the statute of limitations in these cases because carbon monoxide exposure is not a latent injury that develops over time. Rather, in most cases, any injury resulting from carbon monoxide will typically occur within a very short period of time. Therefore, establishing a longer period in which to bring lawsuits for such injuries could make it more difficult for businesses to defend against them, and it may encourage some individuals to revive old, exhausted claims.

For these reasons we oppose SB 365 and urge the Committee to reject it.