



**Public Hearing Testimony of
Glenn Marshall, Commissioner
Department of Labor
Labor and Public Employees Committee
March 8, 2012**

Good Afternoon Senator Prague, Representative Zalaski, Senator Guglielmo, Representative Rigby and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with testimony regarding ***Senate Bill #180 AA Increasing Penalties for Employers for Refunds of Wages in Exchange for Furnishing Employment***. My name is Glenn Marshall and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Labor.

I am here today to speak in support of this bill. Section 31-73 of the general statutes protects employees from having to pay the employer part of their wages in exchange for employment or continued employment. DOL has seen an increase in violations of this statute by employers as they feel they can take advantage of an individual's need for a job in this difficult economy. Based on this increase, the current financial penalties for violations of this statute are insufficient to deter employers from committing such violations. Increasing the fines would serve to prevent additional violations and appropriately punish those employers that continue to violate the law.

The current penalty for a violation is a fine of not more than \$100 or imprisonment of not more than 30 days for a first offense, and for each subsequent offense, a fine of not more than \$500 or imprisonment of not more than 6 months or both. SB #180 would increase the fines for violations to \$2,500 for the first offense and up to \$5,000 for subsequent offenses.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. I am available to answer any questions you might have.