



**Testimony
Robin Wilson
President & CEO
Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce
Before the
Labor Committee
February 28, 2012**

The Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce *opposes* HB-5199 AN ACT CONCERNING DISCRIMINATORY HIRING PRACTICES AND UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS.

Although we support efforts to encourage employers to hire individuals who have been unemployed, we are concerned that this proposal will expose employers to liability for discrimination by adding unemployed individuals to the list of protected classes under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Employers are in the business of hiring the most qualified individuals for the position. They certainly understand that in this economy many people have been laid off or without work through no fault of their own. This bill, however, unfairly opens up employers that consider applicants who have been unemployed to liability for discrimination. It is very difficult to defend against discrimination complaints of this nature and we are concerned that this provision may unfairly penalize employers. We therefore oppose this bill.

The Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce serves more than 650 member companies from the North Haven and Wallingford area. We are the largest non-metropolitan chamber in the state.

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