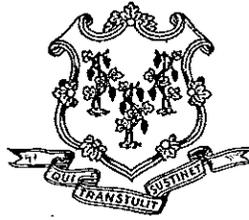


SENATOR MARTIN M. LOONEY  
MAJORITY LEADER

Eleventh District  
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February 28, 2012



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Good Afternoon Senator Prague, Representative Zalaski and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. I would like to express my support for HB 5199, AN ACT CONCERNING DISCRIMINATORY HIRING PRACTICES AND UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS.

HB 5199 would create protections for unemployed persons who are denied employment on the specific basis of being unemployed. It is similar to section 8 of SB 1, of which I am a co-sponsor. This legislation would address an extraordinarily difficult situation currently faced by many long-term unemployed citizens of our state. It is simply unacceptable that certain employers are using a person's unemployment status as a reason to deny that person a chance for a better future. That behavior can add to the downward cascade which has befallen too many in our state during the currently challenging economy. Thank you for raising this important legislation to improve the jobs initiatives that are already helping to grow the Connecticut Economy.