



CONNECTICUT BUSINESS & INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

**Testimony of Kia F. Murrell
Associate Counsel, CBIA
Before the Committee on Labor and Public Employees
Hartford, CT
March 13, 2012**

HB 5399 AAC Voluntary Agreements and the Second Injury Fund

Good Afternoon Senator Prague, Representative Zalaski 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 representing more than 10,000 companies throughout the state of Connecticut, but most of our members are small businesses of 50 or fewer employees.

HB 5399 clarifies the language in the statute regarding stipulated agreements. The fund is currently empowered to settle cases however this legislative change would remove any ambiguity that the Fund may settle cases regarding any matter within the Workers' Compensation Act. The legislation also defines the various parties with whom the Fund may settle matters.

We believe this bill will have a positive impact on Workers Compensation costs for Connecticut employers; therefore we support HB 5399 and urge the Committee to adopt it.