



CONNECTICUT

**TESTIMONY OF
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS (NFIB)
BY
ANDY MARKOWSKI, CONNECTICUT STATE DIRECTOR
SUPPORTING
HB-5402, AA ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE
UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
BEFORE THE
LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE
MARCH 13, 2012**

A non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 1943, NFIB is Connecticut's and the nation's leading small-business association. In Connecticut, NFIB represents thousands of members and their employees. NFIB membership is scattered across the state and ranges from sophisticated high technology enterprises to "Main Street" small businesses to single-person "Mom & Pop" shops that operate in traditional ways. NFIB's mission is "To promote and protect the right of its members to own, operate, and grow their businesses." On behalf of those small- and independent- job-providers in Connecticut, I offer the following comments:

NFIB/Connecticut supports HB-5402, which would establish a task force to examine unemployment compensation benefits in the state. This common-sense legislation should help pave the way for a healthy discussion of how and when benefits can be adjusted. It must be noted, that Connecticut's small businesses have been straining under high unemployment taxes for some time now and have also suffered from recent surcharges. In order to ease this burden on our state's job creators, NFIB/Connecticut recommends that significant changes need to be made to the eligibility and administration of the state's unemployment benefits system in order to maintain long-term solvency and to ensure the fiscal health of our state's employers. This could include additional efforts to target waste and fraud in the system and also to tighten up the work-search requirements for those receiving benefits. The task force as contemplated in HB-5402 would be the ideal place to begin such a discussion. NFIB/Connecticut would be happy to work with the Administration, members of the Labor Committee, and members of the task force in such an endeavor, and as such would respectfully request that a representative from NFIB be considered for participation on the task force.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and NFIB urges passage of the bill.