

TESTIMONY OF LOUIS W. BACH
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
AND EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT OF THE
CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, MARCH 8TH 2012

Good morning Senator Bye, Representative Willis, and members of the Higher Education committee. My name is Louis W. Bach, testifying on behalf of the Connecticut Business and Industry Association. CBIA's 10,000 member companies represent the broad diversity of Connecticut's private sector and are among the world's most productive and innovative businesses. The work of this committee is important in ensuring that our state's workforce is prepared to compete in a global, 21st century economy.

CBIA is here to lend our support to **SB-238 AA EXPANDING THE LEARN HERE, LIVE HERE PROGRAM**. While we are hopeful that Connecticut will reverse its twenty-year trend of zero net job growth, the reality remains that young people graduating from our fine institutions of higher education are leaving the state to find work. Even where job opportunities do exist, the cost of living in the northeast makes other states more attractive – whether they are neighbors with youthful cities or more distant regions with growing economies and a low cost-of-living.

Providing an economic leg up for Connecticut's graduates to invest and live in the state through the Learn Here, Live Here program is a positive way to help keep our next generation workforce here in the Nutmeg State. We support the expansion of Learn Here, Live Here and recommend including graduates of neighboring state's institutions of higher learning in the program.

Thank you for considering our position, and please feel free to contact me with any questions at Louis.Bach@cbia.com, or by phone at (860) 244-1929.