



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Commerce Committee
Public Testimony
Thursday, March, 7th 2013

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 5017 AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEARN
HERE, LIVE HERE PROGRAM AND BUSINESS CREATION.

Dear Senator LeBeau, Representative Perone, Senator Franz, Representative Lavielle and
esteemed members of the Commerce Committee,

I submit this testimony in support of House Bill 5017, AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEARN
HERE, LIVE HERE PROGRAM AND BUSINESS CREATION.

The purpose of this bill is to mandate, rather than allow, that the Commissioner of Economic and
Community Development establish the Learn Here, Live Here program, and allow funds from
that program to be applied to the establishment of a new business in the state.

As many of you know, it has become increasingly difficult for young professionals to afford to
buy a home and start a business in Connecticut. Numerous reports have recently been released
indicating that homeownership among young adults is at an all-time low. Likewise, the State of
Connecticut has also been ranked near the bottom recently for entrepreneurship and business
startups, both of which are essential to a vibrant economy.

The adoption of this proposal sends a clear message to those who graduate from Connecticut
schools that we, as a state, want them to stay in Connecticut, help build our economy, and
encourage them to start the businesses of our future.

I urge the committee's favorable consideration of House Bill 5133.