



CONNECTICUT

**TESTIMONY OF
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS (NFIB)
BY
ANDY MARKOWSKI, CONNECTICUT STATE DIRECTOR
SUPPORTING
HB-5459, AAC PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE DELIVERY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
SERVICES
BEFORE THE
COMMERCE COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 19, 2013**

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-5459, An Act Concerning Partnerships For The Delivery Of Economic Development. This bill is a common-sense attempt to further assist struggling small businesses and promote new business startups by streamlining and promoting the delivery of valuable economic development services. We applaud the proponents' desires to help small businesses and the recognition that small businesses and entrepreneurs are indeed the engine that drives the state's economy, and simplifying how these businesses interact with state government, especially regarding economic development services, is an important aspect of aiding in recovery. Creating a uniform application system, partnering with and educating organizations such as NFIB, chambers of commerce, and the like, will go a long way toward making business interaction with DECD and other relevant state agencies much more efficient and transparent and help with the delivery of economic development services. We are particularly encouraged by the call for the establishment of a uniform system to apply for assistance, since one of the foremost concerns of NFIB members and other small business owners is the amount of paperwork they are required to file with various levels of government. NFIB members believe that owners ought to be spending their time working on and in their business, not filling out forms for the government, and this holds particularly true when it comes to paperwork that is related to state assistance and economic development services.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and NFIB urges lawmakers to support HB-5459.