

**TESTIMONY OF
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CONNECTICUT BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
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LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**

Good day. My name is Peter M. Gioia. I am the economist for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents about 10,000 firms, which employ approximately 700,000 women and men in Connecticut. Our membership includes firms of all sizes and types, the vast majority of which are small businesses with fewer than 50 people.

CBIA supports the following bills: HB 6362 An Act Concerning the Transparency and Accessibility of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, and HB 6363 An Act Streamlining State Government and Increasing Effectiveness.

CBIA supports the efforts in the Governor's recommended budget to create a smaller more effective and efficient state system. These two bills make different proposals to help achieve those goals.

Bill 6362 creates a coordinated and transparent electronic system of state regulations that can be accessed by businesses and citizens alike. It ought to make for more user friendly government and help with understanding and compliance.

Bill 6363 creates numerous changes with panels, councils, review groups and more. Overall, we support these efforts and in particular agree with the efforts that:

- establishes an innovations review panel to identify and quantify savings ideas generated by employees, something well needed as we have yet to identify such savings in the last biennium's SEBAC agreement.
- establishes a higher education consolidation committee to ensure budget savings in this area
- determines that DECD take the lead in international trade assistance which we believe is proper and will be helpful for firms that export or who wish to begin exporting.
- establishes a council to help DSS proceed with needed waiver applications which ought to allow the department to seek and implement more cost savings.

Connecticut's ability to manage its state budget will continue to have a direct effect on our economy. The more effective and efficient that government is, the better our business climate will be. In addition, Connecticut will be better able to compete with other states to grow and retain existing businesses as well as bring new companies into our state. Making Connecticut government more efficient isn't just a desired goal--it's essential to building and sustaining a healthy economy and an improved quality of life.

CBIA urges the legislature to seek areas to further streamline its budget. While controlling state spending is a substantial and difficult task, we hope the committee and the General Assembly will make the necessary difficult decisions that will provide an improved fiscal climate for our state while fully protecting our fragile economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.