

TESTIMONY
BEFORE THE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
FEBRUARY 19, 2013

My name is Jennifer Herz and I am Assistant Counsel for the Connecticut Business & Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents approximately 10,000 businesses throughout Connecticut and the vast majority of these are small companies employing less than 50 people.

CBIA **supports Proposed SB 594** An Act Restoring Reimbursement Levels for Emergency Ambulance Transportation.

CBIA supports this bill to increase Medicaid reimbursement levels for emergency ambulance transportation of Medicaid recipients in order to reduce cost shifting to employer sponsored insurance.

The simple consequence of reduced Medicaid reimbursement is charging the private sector – including small businesses and individuals – more for their care. Such cost shifting only drives up premiums and the overall cost of healthcare. Restoring Medicaid reimbursement levels is a step in the right direction. We must address the cost inefficiencies in our system in order to reduce artificial cost increases.

Again, I want to emphasize CBIA supports appropriately reimbursing services provided to Medicaid recipients in order to avoid cost shifting to employer sponsored insurance.

CBIA urges your **support of Proposed SB 594**.
Thank you for the opportunity to offer CBIA's comments.