



**Testimony of
Betsy Gara
Executive Director
Connecticut Council of Small Towns
Before the Labor Committee
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The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) supports HB-5686, AN ACT CONCERNING MINIMUM BASE PERIOD WAGES AND ELIGIBILITY FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS.

The bill increases the base period before a part-time, temporary or seasonal municipal employee is eligible for unemployment compensation benefits. Many small towns need and want to continue to hire part-time, seasonal and temporary works to assist the town in providing needed services to the community. However, unemployment compensation costs continue to climb making it increasingly difficult to afford to hire needed staff.

HB-5686 will assist towns and other employers in continuing to offer recreational and seasonal programs that provide benefits to residents and businesses.