



CONNECTICUT

TESTIMONY OF  
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS (NFIB)  
BY  
ANDY MARKOWSKI, CONNECTICUT STATE DIRECTOR  
*OPPOSING*  
HB-6556, AAC SICK BUILDINGS  
BEFORE THE  
LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE  
MARCH 5, 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 and 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 opposes HB-6556, which would unnecessarily expand workers compensation law to include coverage for "sick building syndrome" and "any building related illness" even when it is attributed to "other allergens" on an "employer's premises". Small businesses are already burdened with the high costs associated with workers' compensation rates, unemployment insurance costs, and high taxes. Unnecessarily broadening workers' compensation coverage further adds to these costs, making it difficult for small businesses to focus on job retention and growth.

Furthermore, NFIB is concerned that there are several vague, excessively broad and ill-defined terms and phrases in the bill as currently drafted. This will not only create uncertainty and compliance difficulties for employers and building owners, but also the potential for frivolous litigation that can cripple a small employer.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments and we urge rejection of the bill.