

**TESTIMONY  
BEFORE THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
MARCH 8, 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 opposes **Proposed HB 6158** An Act Concerning Vaccine Distribution and has concerns regarding **Proposed HB 5744**.

Connecticut companies are very concerned about the rising cost of providing health insurance to their employees. HB 6158 which would allow providers to purchase childhood vaccines from sources other than the state, if adopted, would add to the existing problem by further increasing costs. This bill increases costs because it will lead to double billing insurers. As a result, CBIA opposes its adoption since the additional costs of the vaccines are then passed through to employers.

Insurers are already required to pay for a full set of vaccines purchased by the state that are distributed to doctor's offices. But under this bill, providers would be permitted to go out and buy the product a second time from another source causing insurers to be billed twice for the same service. Consequently, Connecticut employers will face a costlier and less efficient health care system – an unaffordable proposition.

The second issue is that more information is needed to better understand the costs associated with state's vaccine procurement program. The amount the state is spending on vaccines for budget years 2014 and 2015 is substantially more than previous years. This is a serious concern considering the cost of health care is already rising and specific information regarding the state procurement program is unavailable. Information on the state procurement program is necessary in order to ensure the continued value and effectiveness of the program.

Finally, CBIA would like to address **Proposed HB 5744** and express similar concerns regarding the cost impact of this bill. Since the bill is still in proposed form it is difficult to provide specific comment regarding its impact. CBIA again emphasizes that Connecticut employers are faced with rising health care costs and policies that would increase such costs must be avoided.

In conclusion, CBIA opposes Proposed HB 6158 because it will lead to the double billing of insurers and therefore increase the cost of health insurance for Connecticut employers. Furthermore, more information regarding the state's current procurement process is needed to ensure continued efficiency. CBIA is also concerned about Proposed HB 5744 and its impact on the cost of health insurance in Connecticut.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer CBIA's comments.