



Testimony of the Connecticut AFL-CIO

Before the Commerce Committee

February 27, 2014

Good morning Senator LeBeau, Representative Perone and members of Commerce Committee.

The Connecticut AFL-CIO on behalf of our 900 affiliated local unions who represent 200,000 working men and women all across this great state support:

Raised H.B. No. 5247 - An Act Concerning Unemployed Individuals And Discriminatory Hiring Practices

The Connecticut AFL-CIO previously has held a series of roundtable discussions with workers, community leaders, and the unemployed. These conversations exposed the problem that is addressed in this legislation. Long term unemployed workers are being told they "need not apply" or "application will not be considered". Employers are making statements about the work ethic of a long term unemployed worker being lost, and that their skills are not fresh. The mere fact that an individual is unemployed for any duration should not prohibit an opportunity for employment. Workers do not want to be unemployed, mothers and fathers want to be able to provide for their families, but when we are dealing with an economy which has five workers applying for every one job opening unemployment isn't a choice it is a reality. Please support this bill.

Respectfully Submitted,

Todd G. Berch

CT AFL-CIO