



State of Connecticut

SENATOR JOHN MCKINNEY

SENATE MINORITY LEADER

28th DISTRICT

Suite 3400, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1591
Hartford: (860) 240-8800
Toll Free: (800) 842-1421

Fax: (860) 240-8306
John.McKinney@cga.ct.gov
www.SenatorMcKinney.com

Testimony of State Senate Minority Leader John McKinney

Commerce Committee Public Hearing

Thursday, February 27, 2014

10:00 AM in Room 1D of the LOB

Thank you Chairman LeBeau, Chairman Perone and members of the Commerce Committee, for the opportunity to testify today on Proposed S.B. No. 78 AN ACT EXTENDING THE JOB EXPANSION TAX CREDIT PROGRAM.

During the October 2011 special session, the General Assembly passed bipartisan legislation to incentivize Connecticut businesses to create new jobs and put Connecticut residents back to work. An important piece of that legislation was the Job Expansion Tax Credit program (JET) which, as you know, offers eligible Connecticut businesses tax credits of at least \$500 per month for each new fulltime job they create. Unfortunately, the JET program only applied to jobs created from January 1, 2012 to January 1st of this year. Since commencing in January of 2012, the program has successfully helped to create 1,856 new jobs and as of September 2013 the program has only issued \$5.6 million worth of credit, well below the total \$40 million dollar cap established by the legislature. In my district various businesses have taken advantage of the JET program to create new job opportunities and expand their business training to hire military veterans who are out of work.

Given the current state of Connecticut's economic recovery and the stagnant growth in the states job market, I am proposing to extend the JET program until the \$40 million dollar limit that was allocated to the program is reached. We as legislators need to look at programs that are working to help our businesses grow jobs in our state. As I stated during my remarks on the jobs bill in 2011, I do not believe that government creates jobs. I believe government can create an environment that stifles job creation and job growth, or it can create one that creates a fair, competitive playing field where people, through hard work and talent, can create jobs. The bipartisan JET program is an example of a program where we have created an environment that

fosters a fair and proven method for assisting Connecticut residents in getting back to work and making our state more competitive.

I thank you again for the opportunity to voice my support for this important measure, and I urge its passage.