

**TESTIMONY
BEFORE THE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
MARCH 12, 2014**

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 fewer than 50 people.

A top concern for Connecticut's business community is ensuring that the next generation of students has the skills and academic preparation needed to enter the workforce. The Common Core is designed to prepare our children and grandchildren for the next steps in their educational goals and equip them with the skills they will need to achieve and enjoy productive careers.

Therefore, CBIA opposes HB 5078 An Act Imposing a Moratorium on the Implementation of the Common Core State Standards. Moving forward with the Common Core standards is essential to keeping Connecticut competitive in the global economy.

Many persistent myths about the development of the common core standards have led to some confusion and misinformation. It is important to remember this initiative was developed by state-based organizations, including teachers, with the goal of making sure that students have the skills they need to succeed. The Common Core creates consistent and high standards for students across the United States. From a business perspective, raising the bar academically will mean giving employers the confidence that students graduating from our schools will have the right skills to meet their workforce needs.

One of Connecticut's most admired and competitive hallmarks is its talented workforce. Connecticut must move forward with the Common Core standards now so that employers may continue to count on a pipeline of skilled talent for generations to come. Delaying the standards would be counterproductive both to the future of our young people and Connecticut's economy, and therefore should be rejected.

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