

Testimony of Eric W. Gjede  
Assistant Counsel, CBIA  
Before the General Law Committee  
Hartford, CT  
March 11, 2014

**Testifying in support of SB 268 AAC Apprenticeship Ratios**

Good afternoon Senator Doyle, Representative Baram, Senator Witkos, Representative Carter and members of the General Law Committee. My name is Eric Gjede and I am assistant counsel at the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA), which represents more than 10,000 large and small companies throughout the state of Connecticut.

CBIA Supports SB 268.

SB 268 would make it more affordable for Connecticut businesses engaged in skilled trades to take on more apprentices. Business costs in Connecticut are some of the highest in the country. Therefore, we must pursue policies that will encourage employers to continue to provide training opportunities for the next generation of workers. Unfortunately, when economic conditions cause businesses to reduce costs, training opportunities for employees tend to be one of the first things cut from their budgets. This bill would encourage more apprenticeship opportunities for tomorrow's workforce.

We urge the committee to support SB 268.