



State of Connecticut

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To: Senator Cassano and Representative Willis, HEEA Co-Chairs
Senator Boucher and Representative LeGeyt, HEEA Ranking Members

Testimony in Support of SB 370, *An Act Expanding The Tax Credit for Apprenticeship Training Programs*

Date: March 11, 2014

Thank you for the opportunity to address a concept in apprenticeship and workforce development intended to:

- stem teen unemployment;
- provide a supported quick-start into the workforce; and
- construct a career ladder of training and experience

The student apprenticeship program targets inexperienced workers (high school and college-aged) who have an expressed interest in a particular industry and are seeking on-the-job training in an apprentice capacity. This target population differs somewhat from the enumerated populations in SB 370, but deserves consideration given the very high rate of teen unemployment. Connecticut's youth unemployment is a staggering 17.1% - higher than the national average.

A small scale local example of this initiative occurred in Old Saybrook with Saybrook Point Marina's "Deck Hand in Training" program which offered teenagers supervised experiences in the marine trades industry allowing them to become more knowledgeable dockhands. The Deck Hands in Training program, a "Connecticut grown" initiative, was nationally recognized in the marine trades industry.

The business cost, risk and human investment inherent in apprenticeship experiences is mitigated as Raised Senate Bill 370 offers the incentive and cost off-set of tax credits.

As SB 370 is contemplated by the committee, I urge you to look expansively both at its target industries and target populations as its core concept embraces the experiences our youth most need.