

TESTIMONY OF
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VICE PRESIDENT AND ECONOMIST
CONNECTICUT BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
MARCH 11, 2014
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

Good day. My name is Pete Gioia. I am the economist for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents about 10,000 firms, which employ about 700,000 women and men in Connecticut. Our membership includes firms of all sizes and types, the vast majority of which are small businesses with fewer than 50 people.

CBIA supports and would like to comment upon SB 321, SB 326, and SB 329. CBIA is encouraged that the committee is hearing these bills.

Medicaid is the single most costly line item in the state budget and long term care is the costliest part of Medicaid. We will never control our state budget until we better control Medicaid costs. These dollars support our most vulnerable citizens with vital services. But, we continue to choose the most costly ways to direct these services when often clients prefer less expensive options like home care. We have an aging population so time is running out to take control in this area.

That's why we need comprehensive study and planning, actions to get suitable waivers and focus upon directing efforts towards appropriate levels of care in appropriate settings.

CBIA has always supported government that works. These efforts will promote new thinking and better planning in our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.