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CONNECTICUT

TESTIMONY OF
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS (NFIB)
CONCERNING

SB-478, AAC THE AUTHORITY AND DUTIES OF THE CONNECTICUT HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE AND ESTABLISHING CERTAIN STANDARDS FOR CERTAIN STOP LOSS INSURANCE POLICIES;

SB-479, AAC THE DUTIES OF THE HEALTH REINSURANCE ASSOCIATION AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE CONNECTICUT SMALL EMPLOYER REINSURANCE POOL, UPDATING THE PREEXISTING CONDITIONS STATUTE, AND CONCERNING SMALL EMPLOYER PREMIUM RATE APPROVAL

BEFORE THE
INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE
MARCH 18, 2014

A non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 1943, NFIB is Connecticut's and the nation's leading small-business association. In Connecticut, NFIB represents thousands of members and their employees. NFIB membership is scattered across the state and ranges from sophisticated high technology enterprises to "Main Street" small businesses to single-person "Mom & Pop" shops that operate in traditional ways. NFIB's mission is "To promote and protect the right of its members to own, operate, and grow their businesses." On behalf of those small- and independent- job-providers in Connecticut, I offer the following comments:

NFIB/Connecticut has concerns with the impact of certain provisions contained in SB-478 and SB-479 as currently drafted. NFIB/Connecticut is concerned that these bills would make changes to the small group market in Connecticut that could be detrimental to small employers who are already struggling to obtain and provide affordable health insurance for themselves and their employees. Regarding SB-478, while we understand that many of these changes may be necessary to conform with federal requirements under the Affordable Care Act, NFIB/CT is concerned that changes contemplated in Section 5 of the bill to the definition, eligibility and timing for "small group" insurance could be problematic for some small businesses. Regarding SB-479, NFIB/CT is concerned that by substantially increasing the minimum stop-loss deductible, as completed in Section 5 of the bill, it could create financial and other difficulties for those small businesses that may choose to self insure.

NFIB is committed to seeking legislative reforms that help small businesses. And, since 1986, our small business members have told us that increasing healthcare costs is their No. 1 problem. NFIB has worked tirelessly to offer solutions and encourage Congress and state legislatures to pursue reforms that will help lower healthcare costs and provide affordable options for small businesses. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB-478 and SB-479 and for the Committee's willingness to be engaged in this important public policy matter for small businesses.