



**Written Testimony**  
**Labor and Public Employees Committee**  
**February 27, 2014**

Good Afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Tercyak, Senator Markley and Representative Smith and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with testimony regarding **House Bill No. 5279: An Act Eliminating the Minimum Fair Wage Exception for Certain Citizens of Connecticut.**

On behalf of the undersigned agencies, we would like to offer the following testimony with respect to House Bill 5279. Every individual deserves to be paid a fair wage for the work that they perform, and to require any less would be unacceptable. This existing law allows employers to apply for a waiver to pay individuals with certain disabilities less than the statutory minimum wage, which this bill seeks to eliminate. While we recognize the intent of the existing law, and certainly appreciate the intent of the proposed bill, we believe that this issue merits further investigation into the current practices as they exist today in our state and the potential impacts that this bill would have.

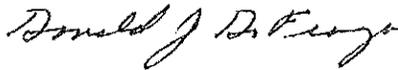
We look forward to working with the proponents of this legislation as it moves through the process.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit this testimony on this very important topic.

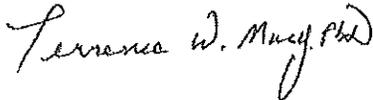
Thank you,



Sharon M. Palmer  
Commissioner  
Department of Labor



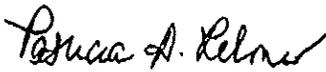
Don DeFronzo  
Commissioner  
Department of Administrative Services



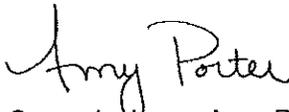
Terrence W. Macy, PhD  
Commissioner  
Department of Developmental Services



Roderick L. Bremby  
Commissioner  
Department of Social Services



Patricia Rehmer  
Commissioner  
Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services



Commissioner Amy Porter  
Commissioner  
Department of Rehabilitation Services