



CONNECTICUT

**TESTIMONY OF
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS (NFIB)
ANDY MARKOWSKI, CONNECTICUT STATE DIRECTOR
OPPOSING
HB-5280, AAC EXECUTIVE EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION
BEFORE THE
LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 27, 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 HB-5280, and urges rejection. This economically dangerous legislation is once again an example of state government meddling into the operations of many Connecticut employers, the very employers who are being relied upon to help lead the state into economic recovery. Penalizing certain employers by making them ineligible for tax credits or other state economic assistance based on an arbitrary threshold of their average employee compensation is dangerous precedent and poor economic development policy that sets Connecticut apart from other states against which we are competing for business. In addition, it should be noted that in Connecticut, due to the "pass-through" structure (i.e. S-corps, LLCs, etc.) of a majority of small businesses, it is not just "corporate executives" that will be impacted by this legislation but potentially many small business owners as well. Arbitrary/inconsistent tax preferences, constant change and complexity are top NFIB member complaints about current tax policies, and this legislation unnecessarily further changes the playing field for businesses in this regard.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and NFIB urges lawmakers to take no action on HB-5280.