



CONNECTICUT

**TESTIMONY OF
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS (NFIB)
BY
ANDY MARKOWSKI, CONNECTICUT STATE DIRECTOR
REGARDING
HB-5282, AAC WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS
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 supports the intent behind HB-5282. Connecticut's small businesses are already burdened with the high costs associated with workers' compensation insurance, in addition to rising unemployment costs, and high taxes. This legislation, on its face, would allow certain small business owners to take advantage of the current exclusion process to under state workers' compensation laws, provided, however, that they provide certain notice to those they do business with or provide service. While NFIB/Connecticut does have some questions as to the feasibility and necessity of the notice provisions contained in Section 2 of the bill, overall, to the extent that this legislation would help alleviate the burdens of workers' compensation placed upon small businesses and their owners, NFIB/Connecticut is supportive. NFIB/Connecticut encourages the legislature to continue looking at numerous ways to help reduce the costs, paperwork and compliance burdens of workers' compensation insurance and prevent action that would further add to employers' workers' compensation costs which makes it difficult for small businesses to focus on job retention and growth.

Thank you for your consideration of NFIB's comments.