



CONNECTICUT

TESTIMONY OF  
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS (NFIB)  
BY  
ANDY MARKOWSKI, CONNECTICUT STATE DIRECTOR  
SUPPORTING  
HB-5314, AAC PAYMENTS ON ADVANCES FROM  
THE FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT ACCOUNT  
BEFORE THE  
LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE  
MARCH 11, 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 HB-5314.** This bill, which would require the state to pay down the remaining interest owed to the federal government as a result of borrowing to cover shortfalls in the state unemployment compensation system, is an important bill that could immediately provide some much-needed financial relief to small businesses who have been struggling under the rising costs of unemployment compensation coverage for their employees. In addition, this bill has the potential to help change the perception of the state's attitude toward businesses by being a prime example of a positive piece of legislation that would provide a tangible benefit to all businesses. It must be noted, that Connecticut's small businesses have been straining under high unemployment taxes for some time now and have also suffered from recent surcharges. NFIB/Connecticut welcomes any relief that would help ease this burden on our state's job creators. Furthermore, NFIB/Connecticut also recommends that in the future, significant changes need to be made to the eligibility and administration of the state's unemployment benefits system in order to maintain long-term solvency and to ensure the fiscal health of our state's small employers.

Thank you for your consideration of NFIB's comments in support of this important legislation.