



Testimony on RB 5346 An Act Concerning Workforce Investment Boards

March 11, 2014

Submitted by: William Villano, The Connecticut Workforce Development Council

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Good afternoon. My name is William Villano and I am President and CEO of the Workforce Alliance, the South Central Workforce Investment Board. I am here today on behalf of the Connecticut Workforce Development Council (CWDC) to raise questions about the need for RB 5346.

The CWDC, comprised of the state's five Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs), leads a coordinated statewide workforce development system which strives to meet the current and future needs of the state's businesses by building a competitive workforce through education, training and job readiness opportunities. Connecticut's Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) have a track record of performance and innovation in serving the people and the businesses of the state. We are the state's best resource to:

- Address the job readiness and training needs of the long term and newly unemployed
- Help employers match their job openings today and in the future to qualified candidates
- Connect youth to career pathways and work experiences that will sustain our state's competitiveness.

In an effort to support a skilled workforce, we implement programs serving youth, unemployed adults, and dislocated and incumbent workers. Our legislative agenda (see attached) highlights a number of current activities we are engaged in which require continued or increased state support.

We are happy to provide the information outlined in the Raised Bill at any time to legislators without the need for a study. Most of the data about the Workforce Investment Board services which is called for in the Raised Bill is currently submitted to the CT Department of Labor as part of the annual reporting on the Workforce Investment Act and the Jobs First Employment Services Program and to the federal Department of Labor for any of their grants. In addition, each Workforce Investment Board issues reports on their activities to their Boards of Directors and Chief Elected Officials which are publicly available and have all of the WIBs have websites with extensive information on their office location, services, etc.

Rather than the call for a study, we welcome the opportunity to hold an informational hearing with the Labor and Public Employees Committee as we did last legislative session which allows for both information sharing and questions by legislators. Our goal is to provide you with the information you seek on a regular and as needed basis rather than waiting for an annual study.

In addition, the CT Workforce Development Council will continue to provide your committee members with information about our mission, services and impact and look forward to partnering with the state legislature to promote economic growth for our state.