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Testimony of Eric W. Gjede
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Before the Committee on Labor and Public Employees
Hartford, CT
March 11, 2014

Testifying in support of HB 5454 AAC Apprenticeship Ratios

Good afternoon Senator Holder-Winfield, Representative Tercyak, Senator Markley, Representative Smith and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. My name is Eric Gjede and I am assistant counsel at the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA), which represents more than 10,000 large and small companies throughout the state of Connecticut.

CBIA Supports HB 5454.

HB 5454 would make it more affordable for Connecticut businesses engaged in skilled trades to take on more apprentices. Business costs in Connecticut are some of the highest in the country. Therefore, we must pursue policies that will encourage employers to continue to provide training opportunities for the next generation of workers. Unfortunately, when economic conditions cause businesses to reduce costs, training opportunities for employees tend to be one of the first things cut from their budgets. This bill would encourage more apprenticeship opportunities for tomorrow's workforce.

We urge the committee to support HB 5454.

