



CONNECTICUT

TESTIMONY OF  
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS (NFIB)  
BY  
ANDY MARKOWSKI, CONNECTICUT STATE DIRECTOR  
SUPPORTING  
SB-243, AAC ELIGIBILITY FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS  
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 SB-243.** This bill makes various, modest changes to the state unemployment compensation system to help better focus the administration of the benefits to potential claimants. NFIB/Connecticut thinks that there are some common-sense changes embodied in this bill, particularly the new language contained in Section 2 of the bill regarding commercial drivers. 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 is supportive of efforts to examine 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. This could include additional efforts to target waste and fraud in the system and also to tighten up the work-search requirements for those receiving benefits. In that regard, NFIB/Connecticut is also strongly supportive of Section 3 of the bill but suggests amending this section so that the composition of the task force can be refined to specifically include a representative of small business, recognizing the unique nature of small employers. NFIB/Connecticut would be happy to serve as resource in this regard.

Thank you for your consideration of NFIB's comments in support of this important legislation, and NFIB/Connecticut urges passage of SB-243.