

Testimony of Edith Prague
Commissioner State Department on Aging
to the Joint Committee on Labor and Public Employees
on Governor's Bill HB 5054, An Act Concerning Unemployed Job Seekers
February 18, 2012

Good Afternoon, Senator Osten, Representative Tercyak, Senator Markley, Representative Smith, and the distinguished members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. My name is Edith Prague. I am the former Senator from the 19th district and former Senate Chair of this Labor and Public Employees Committee. I am submitting testimony in support of Governor's Bill HB 5054 - ***An Act Concerning Unemployed Job Seekers.***

I am proud to be here on behalf of the thousands of senior citizens in the State of Connecticut, many of whom want to go back to work for one reason or another. Financially they may need to go back to work. Many of them are bored with retirement. All of them have talents and experience that would make them excellent employees. To not consider them for a position because they have been unemployed for a period of time is outrageous. It borders on discrimination. Qualified and experienced workers should never be disqualified from employment simply because they are not currently working. I urge you to seriously consider the Governor's bill and make sure that all people are treated fairly.

Other states such as New Jersey, Oregon and Massachusetts have passed, or are currently considering passing similar legislation. I believe Connecticut should follow suit. Currently Connecticut's older population is growing in leaps and bounds. We are the 7th oldest state in the country. We are fortunate to have so many talented people. Let's make the most of an opportunity to get these talented people back to work and to enrich our economy.