



State of Connecticut

SENATE

STATE CAPITOL
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SENATOR ART LINARES
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EDUCATION COMMITTEE

February 25, 2014

Dear Senator Catherine Osten, Rep. Peter Tercyak, Senator Terry Gerratana, Rep. Ezequiel Santiago, Senator Joseph Markley, Rep. Richard Smith, and members of the Labor Committee,

I urge the committee to pay special attention to the testimony submitted by Vista Vocational & Life Skills center regarding *H.B. 5279, An Act Eliminating the Minimum Fair Wage Exception for Certain Citizens of Connecticut*. Vista assists its clients in obtaining employment opportunities, and elimination of the ability of an organization such as Vista to utilize a subminimum wage certificate would mean unemployment for many with disabilities. The current system allows the individual with a disability to work at their pace, receive a paycheck for the work they have done and feel great about being employed.

I trust you will keep Vista and the many other state and private organizations in mind that assist their clients in finding and enjoying meaningful work--and earning a paycheck--as you consider the implications of this bill.

Sincerely,

Art Linares
State Senator