



Written Public Hearing Testimony of
Sharon Palmer, Commissioner
Department of Labor
Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee
March 4, 2014

Good Afternoon Senator Kissel, Representative Mushinsky, Senator Fonfara, Representative Carpino and members of the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with written testimony regarding **House Bill No. 5382: AA Implementing the Recommendations of the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee Study on the Reemployment of Older Workers as They Relate to Job Advertisements**. My name is Sharon Palmer and I am the Labor Commissioner.

During the time that I have served as the Labor Commissioner, I have spoken to several unemployed job seekers who have not only shared their overall frustrations, but have also shared their experiences with prospective employers as they look for work. One of the unfortunate hurdles that they face stems from the fact that they have been unemployed for an extended period of time. They feel that the fact that they have been unemployed for a long time is hurting them in the job market and that some prospective employers might even be disqualifying them from the job.

Governor Dannel Malloy's proposal **House Bill No. 5054: AAC Unemployed Job Seekers** tackles this problem head-on by prohibiting an employer from advertising or announcing for any job opening excluding unemployed individuals from consideration. H.B. # 5054 offers Connecticut residents with a level of security knowing that their employment status does not disqualify them for a job.

In general, I don't believe that this type of activity belongs in employment practice, advertisement or in any consideration for hiring. I commend Governor Malloy and the General Assembly for beginning a dialogue regarding this important topic.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony today.