



FOUNDATION FOR FAIR CONTRACTING OF CONNECTICUT, INC.

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Veterans' Affairs Committee
Public Hearing

February 25, 2014

Re: SB 212 *An Act Concerning Implementation of the Recommendations of the Military Occupational Specialty Task Force*
HB 5299 *An Act Concerning the Findings of the Military Occupational Specialty Task Force*

Senator Leone, Representative Hennessy, Senator Welch, Representative Yaccarino and members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee,

The Foundation for Fair Contracting of Connecticut (FFC) is a non-profit organization created by labor and management in order to monitor all public works construction projects covered under the Connecticut General Statutes Section 31-53 and the Davis-Bacon Act. We accomplish this by reviewing public documents prepared and/or submitted by the owner and contractor(s). We focus on licensing, proper payment of prevailing wage rates, proper classification of workers and properly administered state apprenticeship standards.

The FFC represents a number of licensable crafts, including the International Union of Elevator Constructors Local 91, the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 11, and the Sheet Metal Workers International Association Local Union 38 and Local Union 40.

Though we support creating job opportunities for our returning veterans, especially in the construction industry, we have concerns with certain sections of both SB 212 and HB 5299.

We specifically have questions pertaining to Section 4(B) of SB 212:

The commissioner shall grant a license or a card of registration provided for in this chapter, without an examination, to any person who presents evidence of satisfactory completion of a program or course of instruction as part of military training that is equivalent in content and quality to that required in this state. Any application fee, as provided in section 20-333, and any initial license fee, as provided in section 20-335, shall be waived for persons qualifying for a license or card of registration under this subsection

We additionally have questions pertaining to Section 7(c)(5) of both HB 5299 and SB 212:

To take any steps necessary to ensure that state agencies recognize and accept military training and experience when a veteran applies for an occupational license, and that the spouses of veterans are provided with automatic temporary occupational licenses, including temporary certifications for teachers

We encourage our returning veterans to enter state approved apprenticeship programs. That being said, we believe that the authority to approve license applications should be maintained by the Department of Consumer Protection's Occupational Licensing Boards. Further, we have reservations with allowing an applicant to bypass the license examination.

If the authority to grant an occupational license lies solely with the Commissioner, and is not shared with the Occupational Licensing Boards, then we could potentially face an issue regarding public safety in the future. Our Occupational Licensing Boards are made up license holders in that craft, contractors and members of the public who do not hold that license. The board reviews all applicants to make sure that they have performed the required number of hours in that licensable trade, and to make sure that they have met requirements needed in order to take their examination.

We applaud this committee for raising this issue. We would simply request some clarification of the language to ensure that the approval of applications of licenses for our returning veterans is reviewed by the Occupational Licensing Boards.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Kimberly Glassman
Director