



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE MELISSA ZIOBRON
THIRTY-FOURTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4200
300 CAPITOL AVENUE
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1423
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700
FAX: (860) 240-0207
Melissa.Ziobron@housegop.ct.gov

Labor and Public Employees
Public Testimony
Tuesday, March 11, 2014

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 5314 AN ACT CONCERNING PAYMENTS ON ADVANCES FROM THE FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT ACCOUNT.

Dear Senator Holder-Winfield, Representative Tercyak, Senator Markley, Representative Smith, and esteemed members of the Labor Committee.

I submit this testimony in support of HOUSE BILL 5314 AN ACT CONCERNING PAYMENTS ON
ADVANCES FROM THE FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT ACCOUNT.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify to you today on behalf of the small business owners in the 34th
district.

I was first notified about this issue in January when a small business owner contacted me. His family had recently opened a small frozen yogurt shop, inspired by another small business they had visited in Glastonbury. His daughter did initial research and convinced her Dad that this business model would be a great fit in East Hampton. She was right, it is.

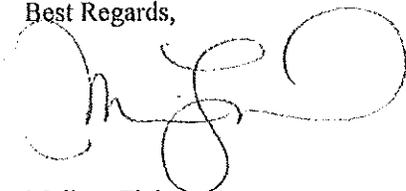
The family spent nights and weekends until months of hard work paid off and they opened their shop last year. I have been a loyal customer and frankly my addiction to their frozen yogurt could be cause for concern! After hiring many local students, they were off and running. Even during this bleak winter, they were doing pretty well. After cutting corners and squeezing the bottom line this food establishment is surviving when 80% of most first year food businesses fail. You can imagine the reaction of this owner, after their sacrifice of trimming the bottom line, only to receive notification that this small shop owed an additional \$680.00.

During my questioning of the Department of Labor officials in Appropriations meetings, I asked if there were other costs that were hidden to the average business owner as it related to this federal multi-million dollar loan. Yes, it seems there are, including increased rates for policies for unemployment compensation insurance.

These hidden fees and increases to their operating costs affect every business owner in Connecticut. It seems to me that this bill proposal of repaying the interest is the most equitable and immediate form of tax relief we could provide to our business community. They have paid their fair share and then some. Here is an opportunity where the State would not be picking winners and losers—here is an actual tax relief policy where everyone wins. What are we waiting for?

I urge you to move HB 5314 out of committee for consideration by the full General Assembly.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Ziobron', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Melissa Ziobron
State Representative
34th District