

**TESTIMONY OF  
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VICE PRESIDENT & ECONOMIST  
CONNECTICUT BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
SUBMITTED TO THE  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
APRIL 21, 2015  
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**

Good day. My name is Peter M. Gioia. I am the vice president and economist for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents about 10,000 firms, which employ approximately 700,000 women and men in Connecticut. Our membership includes firms of all sizes and types, over 90% are small businesses with fewer than 50 people.

CBIA wishes to comment upon **S.R. No. 32 and H.R. No. 29 resolutions approving collective bargaining agreement with two units.**

Connecticut is in the midst of grappling with multiple fiscal challenges, all of which are in full view of this committee -- from the current year deficit that grows more difficult with each passing week, to the serious biennial deficit you and your colleagues are trying to tackle. The proposed budget before you includes painful cuts to programs and major new revenue increases from business, the public and hospitals. The job looks overwhelming.

How then, can the challenges of the moment not factor into your consideration of the resolutions before you today? How can you set a path to sustainable spending reform without a close review of these agreements -- soon to be followed by a dozen or so in the coming year?

We think that now is *not the right time* to add to our fiscal challenges by passing these and other resolutions on pay increases. We suggest the state craft a sustainable budget package that ensures economic growth and that allows discretion on such items *first* before acting on such resolutions. Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.