



CONNECTICUT

**TESTIMONY OF
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS (NFIB)
REGARDING
HB-7055, AAC CONNECTICUT FIRST
BEFORE THE
FINANCE, REVENUE & BONDING COMMITTEE
APRIL 15, 2015**

A non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 1943, NFIB is Connecticut's and the nation's leading small-business association. In Connecticut, NFIB represents thousands of members and their employees. NFIB membership is scattered across the state and ranges from sophisticated high technology enterprises to "Main Street" small businesses to single-person "Mom & Pop" shops that operate in traditional ways. NFIB's mission is "To promote and protect the right of its members to own, operate, and grow their businesses." On behalf of those small- and independent- job-providers in Connecticut, NFIB/Connecticut offers the following comments:

NFIB/Connecticut supports Sections 12 – 15 of HB-7055 which would make a modest and positive change to Connecticut's rulemaking processes by requiring state agencies to consider and provide an analysis of any proposed regulations that deviate from existing federal requirements. This represents a step in the right direction for Connecticut towards tackling issues of regulatory reform and state agency efficiencies. In the 2012 edition of the "Small Business Problems & Priorities" report by the NFIB Research Foundation, "Unreasonable Government Regulations" ranked as the 5th greatest problem of concern from small business owners, up from its 6th position in 2008. Much like taxes, this generic problem category costs small businesses in several ways: understanding and keeping up-to-date with compliance requirements, costs of consultants, employee time, management time, direct outlays, lost productivity and/or sales, forgone opportunities, etc. *The federal government alone proposes approximately 150 new rules every year that cost business owners over \$100 million per rule in compliance costs. Adding state and local laws and regulations that sometimes duplicate or exceed federal regulations, merely raise the cost and frustration level for small business owners.* As such, NFIB/Connecticut is supportive of regulatory review efforts like those contained in Sections 12 – 15 of this legislation. A greater understanding of the costs and regulatory impact on businesses, but especially small businesses – beyond the existing small business impact statements – is sorely needed when and/or if proposed regulations deviate from existing federal standards. Furthermore, requiring state agencies to consider and analyze this aspect before promulgating or amending regulations would also serve to possibly streamline the work of agencies to the benefit of both state government and the regulated community alike. NFIB/Connecticut believes that requiring a federal deviation analysis as part of our state rulemaking process is a positive step that will lead to better regulations, more transparency, and additional agency efficiencies. Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and NFIB/Connecticut encourages lawmakers to support the concepts embodied in Sections 12 – 15 of HB-7055.