



**CONNECTICUT**

**TESTIMONY OF  
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS (NFIB)  
OPPOSING  
HB-5653, AAC CHEMICALS OF HIGH CONCERN FOR CHILDREN  
BEFORE THE  
COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN  
FEBRUARY 5, 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 has significant concerns with HB-5653, and suggests rejection. While the goal of protecting children is something we can all agree upon, NFIB/Connecticut is concerned that this legislation would result in nothing more than a complex and unworkable regulatory scheme that would not only burden many small businesses and but also our state government and its ongoing limited resources. Additionally, NFIB/Connecticut is concerned that establishing this type of chemical labeling and regulatory program would set Connecticut further apart from other states from a competitiveness standpoint. The end result of this type of legislation would further imperil struggling manufacturers and product producers here in Connecticut all the way down the supply chain and increase the overall cost of doing business and impact many small businesses (e.g. manufacturers, contractors, repairers, retailers, etc.).

Empowering the Departments of Public Health and Environmental Protection to unilaterally designate lists of priority chemicals and then eventually prohibit the manufacture, sale or distribution of certain chemicals and/or products would greatly overstep or perhaps diverge from current federal oversight in this area. In addition, the criteria by which these decisions would be made does not seem to take into account the context or quantity of the chemicals, but rather simply a mere presence. Finally, small business owners are concerned that this type of legislation is a first step that could ultimately result in possible additional frivolous lawsuits (i.e. product liability claims and/or other potential legal exposure).

NFIB/Connecticut suggests that from a broader policy perspective, the federal government is better positioned and has more resources to properly address the issues presented in this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and NFIB urges lawmakers to take no action on HB-5653.