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BUSINESS & INDUSTRY
ASSOCIATION

Testimony of Eric W. Gjede
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Before the Committee on Labor and Public Employees
Hartford, CT
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Testifying on HB 6789 AAC Employer Inquiries About An Employee's Or Prospective Employee's Credit History

Good afternoon Senator Winfield, Representative Tercyak, Senator Hwang, Representative Rutigliano and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. My name is Eric Gjede and I am assistant counsel at the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA), which represents more than 10,000 large and small companies throughout the state of Connecticut.

CBIA seeks modification to HB 6789.

CBIA supports removing the "access to \$2,500 in nonfinancial assets" threshold needed before an employer can require a credit history from an employee.

However, CBIA opposes revoking an employer's right to run a credit history on an employee that has access to nonfinancial assets other than museum and library collections and prescription drugs. While museum and library collections and prescription drugs are important, there are a lot of other assets at a place of business that could just as easily be stolen by an improperly screened employee. For example, a car dealership should be able to run a credit history on an employee that will have access to their fleet of cars. The owner of an antique dealership or jewelry store should be able to run a credit history on an employee that has access to the business' valuable merchandise.

While we support removing the dollar threshold, we urge the committee to consider that many other businesses, besides museums, libraries, and pharmacies, have valuable nonfinancial assets and should be allowed to thoroughly screen the people they hire to handle those assets.